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FDCH Political Transcripts

October 15, 1996, Tuesday

TYPE: CAMPAIGN '96

HEADLINE: WEBWIRE-DELIVERS REMARKS TO THE RESIDENTS OF
ALBURQUERQUE, NM; ALBURQUERQUE, NM

SPEAKER:
PRESIDENT CLINTON

CLINTON: Thank you very, very much. Thank you, Congressman Richardson, for what you said about the record that we have worked hard to make in partnership with the Native Americans. Thank you, Mayor Chavez, for being here. I want to thank the Native American leaders who have come here today to offer their support. And I thank President Hale and Governor Garcia for the words that they have given. Let me say that there are many wonderful things about having the great honor of being president of the United States. But being able to be president of a country that includes the Native American tribes, to have the opportunity to work with them in a spirit of genuine respect, to work to improve the recognition of the integrity of their religious practices, to work to try to increase the level of independence and reduce the level of patronizing practices in the relationship of the Native American tribes to the Bureau of Indian Affairs, all these things are very, very important to me. *** Elapsed Time 00:01, Eastern Time 04:38 *** As the 42nd president, I was honored to be the first president since our fifth president, James Monroe, in the 1820s to invite the leaders of every tribe in the United States to meet with me at the White House. We have worked hard to expand tribal sovereignty and self-determination. We have worked hard to make sure every federal agency knows that it should consult with tribal governments at any time we are making decisions that affect American Indians and Alaskan natives. By working together, we have moved forward. *** Elapsed Time 00:02, Eastern Time 04:39 *** We have kept some bad things from happening, but we have also made some good things happen. We have a lot more to do, but we can be proud of what has been done in protecting self-determination, in preserving natural resources, in providing educational and economic opportunity, in defending tribal rights to protect children, families and culture. America is going in the right direction in no small measure because every American and every American family and every American ethnic, racial and religious group knows that in our America, they are all entitled to be treated with dignity and with quality. But I am especially grateful to the Indian nations for standing with us as we have fought to preserve our common values, as we have worked to balance the budget without crippling our investments in people and our obligations to one another. Now we have to continue the progress and build upon it. *** Elapsed Time 00:03, Eastern Time 04:40 *** The endorsement of the leaders here and the work we will do together will be critical to keep our country moving into the right direction as we move into the 21st century. I value their friendship, I value their partnership and I look forward to working with them. Thank you all very, very much. (APPLAUSE) UNKNOWN: Excuse me. I would also like to mention that Joe Byrd, the principal chief of the Cherokee nation, has a statement here, endorsing the president. He couldn't be here this morning. Thank you very much. QUESTION: Mr. President, so-called... QUESTION: ... and can your administration do anything

VIDEO DRAFT SCRIPT

TODAY'S DATE 8/27/99

____ACCEPT

____REGRET

____PENDING

TO:

Stephanie Streett
Assistant to the President and
Director of Scheduling

FROM:

Lynn G. Cutler
Senior Advisor for Indian Affairs
to the Chief of Staff

RE:

Request for the President to videotape a message for the National Forum on the Future of Alaska Natives which is taking place at the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History on September 9, 1999.

DRAFT SCRIPT:

Good morning everyone, President Kitka, honored guests. I wish that I could be there with you in person today. I did want to give you my thoughts on the issues that are of such importance to you because these issues concern me greatly. ~~Lynn Cutler, my senior advisor on Native American issues is with you today. After the forum is over, she will give me a full report on all that you have discussed.~~

~~So that there can be no doubt as to my position on this, I want to start by assuring~~ ^{709.541} you that my Administration firmly supports the subsistence rights of Alaska Natives and other residents of rural Alaska. In fact, I have always been committed to protecting the human and civil rights of Alaska's Eskimo, Indian, and Aleut peoples.

~~I will tell you who shares my beliefs -~~ ^{obviously} the Alaska voters. ^{have} For years, ^{my} public opinion polls have shown that 60% of the voters would ^{beliefs} approve a state constitutional amendment that would enact a rural priority statewide.

Subsistence is a fundamental human and civil right. If Alaska Natives and others are to continue their way of life and maintain their culture, Alaska must comply with the Alaska National Interest Land Conservation Act, or ANILCA. This federal law protects subsistence fishing. Alaska must protect it also. Our position is not

VIDEO DRAFT SCRIPT
PAGE TWO

over fisheries management in order to maintain your subsistence rights.

We hope that such action will not be necessary. ~~But if it is~~, I will ~~not hesitate to~~ do everything ~~that~~ I can to protect a noble and honorable 10,000 year old way of life.

Before I finish, let me say one more thing. The danger that Alaska's people are facing is one that threatens all Americans. If subsistence living becomes a thing of the past, we all lose. This country's greatness was and is dependent on its diversity. We cannot become careless with the right of Americans to live their lives in traditional ways. I promise you that I will fight to preserve the values that one generation has so faithfully passed down to the next.

Thank you again for giving me this opportunity to speak to you. I will always try to match the courage you have shown in defending your way of life.

go at
end of
4th Pg.

It is my sincere hope that the Alaska Legislature enacts a constitutional amendment that will make it unnecessary for the Secretary to take this action.

and simply of words. We are ready to take action. Secretary
Babbitt ~~has made it known that, if necessary, he will move to take~~
is moving to

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any more to solve the current logjam? CLINTON: No, there are some Indian gaming issues around the country that we still have the capacity to resolve, but the ones here are in the courts and there's really nothing more for us to do except to let them work their way through the courts.

QUESTION: Mr. President, (OFF-MIKE) of Native American leaders is not here today. Mescalera Apache President Leonard (OFF-MIKE) and he wants you to bar U.S. Attorney John Kelly, the man who shut down his casino, and so do frankly some people on the stage with you today. Is that going to happen, sir? *** Elapsed Time 00:04, Eastern Time 04:41 *** CLINTON: This issue is

in the courts now and I have no further comment. QUESTION: Mr. President, is there anything to the fact that there's a disputed \$450,000. Everyone in the administration said there's nothing illegal, but there's some ethical issues have been raised. We haven't heard you state much about it.

CLINTON: Well, I -- first of all, I expect to have the opportunity to discuss that tomorrow night, but I believe that the political parties should not give back contributions that were legally made and legally received, and if they made a mistake and took any money that shouldn't have been taken, then they ought to give that back. I think that there are clear FEC rules on this. There's a law on this. That's what we've got a Federal Election Commission for, and we know they're capable of doing their job because they've taken action this year already. QUESTION: (OFF-MIKE)

CLINTON: Thank you all very much. Thank you. END .ETX Oct 15, 1996 17:29 ET .EOF

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release August 6, 1998

PRESIDENT CLINTON:

A Record of Partnership with American Indians and Alaska Natives

"My administration has worked in partnership with tribal leaders...to protect American Indian religious freedom, promote tribal self-determination, preserve tribal natural resources and provide economic opportunities for Native Americans. I look forward to continuing this government-to-government relationship in order to build on the progress we have made in Indian Country."

President Bill Clinton

On April 29, 1994, President Clinton became the first President to invite the leaders of all federally recognized Tribes to the White House. On this historic occasion, the President pledged that his Administration would work with Tribal leaders to establish a true government-to-government partnership. The Clinton Administration has delivered on this commitment by:

Strengthening the Relationship Between the Federal Government and Tribal Nations

In 1994, the President executed a Memorandum for the Heads of Executive Departments and Agencies directing agencies to consult, to the greatest extent practicable and to the extent permitted by law, with tribal governments prior to taking actions that affect federally recognized tribal governments.

On May 14, 1998, the President issued an executive order that strengthens and makes effective across Administrations the 1994 Government-to-Government memorandum. This executive order serves to establish regular and meaningful consultation and collaboration with Indian tribal governments in the development of regulatory practices on Federal matters that significantly or uniquely affect their communities, to reduce the imposition of unfunded mandates upon Indian tribal governments, and to streamline the application process for and increase the availability of waivers to Indian tribal governments.

Expanding the role of American Indians and Alaska Natives throughout his Administration

Appointed 59 Native Americans to all levels of his Administration, including 10 to top positions requiring Senate confirmation and 30 to Presidential appointment positions.

Created the Office of Tribal Justice to promote government-to-government relations with Indian Tribes and ensure aggressive representation of tribal sovereignty in the courts.

Established the American Indian Environmental Office to work with Tribes to protect water quality and the environment in Indian Country.

Created a permanent White House working group composed of all Executive Branch Departments to advance Tribal sovereignty across the administration.

Protecting Religious Freedom

Signed an executive order that requires federal agencies to accommodate access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites by Indian religious practitioners and to avoid adversely affecting the physical integrity of such sacred sites.

Successfully fought for passage of the American Indian Religious Freedom Act Amendments and the Religious Freedom Restoration Act in order to protect the right of free exercise of Tribal religions.

Directed federal agencies to ensure efficient collection and distribution of available eagle feathers and eagle parts to American Indians and Alaska Natives for traditional religious purposes.

Promoting Tribal Self-Determination

Supported passage and implementation of the Indian Self-Determination Act and the Tribal Self-Governance Act, which give Tribal governments control of most federal resources spent within Indian Country.

Successfully fought attempts to penalize tribes for exercising their powers of self-governance and allowing states to tax Tribal governments on new trust lands.

Increasing Educational Opportunities

Proposed a 59% increase in funding for construction and facilities improvement and repair for Native American Schools in his FY 1999 budget.

Provided a 10 percent increase (from \$60 million to \$66 million) for the Indian Education Act in his FY 1999 budget. Serving nearly half a million Native American students, the Act's programs include grants to Local Education Agencies (LEAs), Indian tribes and organizations, Indian-controlled schools, and individuals to address special educational and cultural academic needs of Native Americans.

Signed an executive order that aims to ensure that tribal colleges and universities are more fully recognized as accredited institutions, have access to the opportunities afforded other institutions, and have Federal resources committed to them on a continuing basis.

Providing Economic Development Opportunities in Indian Country

Established an Office of Native American Programs within the Minority Business Development Association at the Department of Commerce, with eight Native American Business Development Centers and a business consultant, that provides management and technical assistance to Native American businesses.

Signed the Community Development Banking and Regulatory Improvement Act, which promotes more lending in Indian Country;

Protecting Tribal Natural Resources

Established for the first time the right of Alaska Natives to fish for subsistence purposes.

Requested more than \$160 million (a 15 percent increase) in his FY 1999 budget for EPA support of tribal environmental protection programs on reservations. As a part of this program, EPA will continue to support tribal capacity to implement, operate, and enforce Federal environmental laws.

Supported the exercise of Northwest Tribes' treaty fishing rights.

Improving Health and Safety for American Indian and Alaska Native Families

Supported funding for continued implementation of the Indian Child Welfare Act and tribal consensus amendments to protect Indian families and culture.

Signed into law the Indian Tribal Justice Support Act to improve criminal law enforcement in Indian Country.

Directed the Attorney General and the Secretary of the Interior to work with tribal leaders and propose improvements for public safety and criminal justice in Indian Country. As a result of this process, the President's FY 1999 budget contains a \$182 million initiative within the Justice and Interior Departments to raise the level of law enforcement in Indian country to national standards.

Devoted \$54 million in his FY 1999 budget to hiring police officers through the COPS program exclusively in Indian country.

1ST STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

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FDCH Political Transcripts

July 7, 1999, Wednesday

TYPE: NEWS EVENT

LENGTH: 2869 words

HEADLINE: PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON DELIVERS REMARKS TO THE PINE RIDGE
INDIAN RESERVATION COMMUNITY

SPEAKER:
PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON,

BODY:
PRESIDENT CLINTON DELIVERS REMARKS TO THE PINE RIDGE INDIAN
RESERVATION COMMUNITY

*** Elapsed Time 00:00, Eastern Time 02:01 ***

JULY 7, 1999

SPEAKER: WILLIAM J. CLINTON, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

*

CLINTON: Thank you very much.

(APPLAUSE)

Thank you, thank you.

(APPLAUSE)

Thank you very much, thank you.

Thank you, Mr. President, and thank you to all of you here from Pine Ridge
and all the other tribal leaders who are here for a HUD- shared-vision
conference.

I am profoundly honored to be in Pine Ridge and in the Lakota nation. In
fact, to try to demonstrate my appreciation and respect, I would like to try --
to try -- to say something in Lakota.

(LAUGHTER)

(APPLAUSE)

(SPEAKING IN LAKOTA)

(APPLAUSE)

*** Elapsed Time 00:01, Eastern Time 02:02 ***

My neighbors, my friends, we are all related.

(APPLAUSE)

Consider those who have come here today to join hands with you along with Secretary Cuomo: Secretary Glickman; your great congressional delegation; our Democratic leader, Tom Daschle in the United States Senate; and Senator Johnson; Congressman Thune. You don't know this, but we have members of Congress from all over America who have come here to express their support and their commitment to join you in building a better tomorrow: Congressman Ed Pastor from Arizona, Congressman Dale Kildee from the state of Michigan.

(APPLAUSE)

Congressman Jim Clyburn from South Carolina, and Congressman Paul Kanjorski from Pennsylvania. He's come all the way from Pennsylvania to be here.

(APPLAUSE)

I want to thank the other people from the administration, especially assistant secretary of the interior, Kevin Gover, and Lyn Cutler (ph) in the White House who work with all of our Native American leaders around America, for what they do.

(APPLAUSE)

CLINTON: I want to thank the CEO of Fannie Mae Frank Raines, the CEO of Norwest Mark Oman, the PMI President Roger Horton (ph), Mortgage Bankers Association President Don Lang, Champion Home CEO Walter Young (ph) -- for all the work that they are prepared to do in building a better future. And they're here today.

I want to thank my good friend Jesse Jackson for never letting us forget our common obligations.

(APPLAUSE)

And I thank the other members of our delegation today -- Bart Harvey (ph) from Enterprise, Al From from the Democratic Leadership Council.

*** Elapsed Time 00:03, Eastern Time 02:04 ***

I'd like to thank the young AmeriCorps volunteers who are here today for all the work they do.

I would like to finally say a word of appreciation to all the people who live here on this reservation who welcomed me into their homes, who talked to me today as I walked down their streets. I thank especially Geraldine Bluebird (ph), who Secretary Cuomo mentioned. She let me sit on her porch and she told me how she tries to make ends meet for the 28 people that share her small home

and the house trailer adjoining.

I thank the children who stopped their playing and shook hands with me and listened to me while I encouraged them to stay in school and to go on to college and to live out their dreams.

(APPLAUSE)

I want to bring you greetings from two people who are not here. First, from Vice President Gore, who has headed our empowerment zone effort that Pine Ridge became a part of today.

(APPLAUSE)

And second, just a little over an hour ago, I talked to the first lady. Hillary has spent more time in Indian country than any first lady in history. She is intensely committed to this effort and she asked me to say hello to you.

(APPLAUSE)

President Solway (ph) said today I was the only president ever to come to an Indian reservation for a nation-to-nation business meeting.

CLINTON: I remember back in 1994 I invited all the tribal leaders in America to the White House and it was the first such gathering since the presidency of James Monroe in the 1820s.

*** Elapsed Time 00:05, Eastern Time 02:06 ***

Now, I know that Calvin Coolidge came to Pine Ridge in the 1920s and that President Roosevelt visited another Native American reservation. But no American president has been anywhere in Indian country since Franklin Roosevelt was president. That is wrong and we're trying to fix it today.

(APPLAUSE)

I was profoundly moved by the pipe ceremony just as I was when your congressional delegation took me last night not only to Mount Rushmore, but to the Crazy Horse memorial and to the museum that is there with it. But I ask you today, even as we remember the past, to think more about the future.

*** Elapsed Time 00:06, Eastern Time 02:07 ***

We know well what the failings of the present and the past are.

CLINTON: We know well the imperfect relationship that the United States and its government has enjoyed with the tribal nations, but I have seen today not only poverty but promise and I have seen enormous courage.

I came here today for three reasons: First of all to celebrate the empowerment zone and the housing projects that are going on here now. Second, to talk about my new markets initiative and what else we can do, but third, with the business leaders who are here and I've already introduced them.

But I'd like to ask the business leaders I just mentioned to stand up. We want to send a message to America that this a good place to invest. Good people live here.

(APPLAUSE)

Good people live in Indian country. They deserve a chance to go to work. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you.

You've already heard President Salway (ph) and Secretary Cuomo recite the statistics.

*** Elapsed Time 00:07, Eastern Time 02:08 ***

It's a hot day out here and I know you're suffering in the sun, but I want to send a message to America. So I just want to say a few things and I want you to think about this.

Think about the irony of this. We are in the longest period of economic growth in peacetime in our history.

(APPLAUSE)

We have in America almost 19 million new jobs. We have the lowest unemployment rate ever recorded for African Americans and Hispanics.

For over two years, our country has had an unemployment rate below five percent, but here on this reservation the unemployment rate is nearly 75 percent.

CLINTON: That is wrong and we have to do something to change it and do it now.

(APPLAUSE)

When we are on the verge on the new century and a new millennium where people are celebrating the miracles of technology and the world growing closer and closer together, and our ability to learn from and with each other and make business partnerships with each other all across our globe, and there are still reservations with few phones and no banks; when still three or four families are forced to share two simple rooms; where communities where Native Americans live have deadly disease and infant mortality rates at many times the national rate -- when these things still persist, we cannot rest until we do better.

And trying is not enough. We have to have results. We can do better.

(APPLAUSE)

Our nation will never have a better chance. When will we ever have this kind of opportunity, where unemployment is low, inflation is low.

*** Elapsed Time 00:09, Eastern Time 02:09 ***

There's a lot of money in our country. The value of the stock market has tripled and then some. Business people are looking for new places to invest. And people who have done well feel a moral obligation to try to help those who are less fortunate, who have not fully participated. And we see it from Appalachia to the Mississippi Delta; to the inner cities of our country; to the Native American communities.

If we can't do this now, we will never get around to doing it. So let us give ourselves a gift for the 21st century -- an America where no one is left behind and everyone has a chance.

(APPLAUSE)

We will do our part.

CLINTON: You have suffered from neglect and you know that doesn't work. You have also suffered from the tyranny of patronizing, inadequately funded government programs and you know that doesn't work.

We have tried to have a more respectful, more proper relationship with the tribal governments of this country, to promote more genuine independence, but also to give more genuine support. And the empowerment zone program, as the vice president and I designed it six years ago, is designed to treat all communities that way.

We're not coming from Washington to tell you exactly what to do and how to do it, we're coming from Washington to ask you what you want to do and tell you we will give you the tools and the support to get done what you want to do for your children and their future.

*** Elapsed Time 00:11, Eastern Time 02:12 ***

(APPLAUSE)

President Saway (ph) and a number of tribal leaders came to me at the White House a couple of months ago. You may have heard in the national press that I repeatedly referred to this profoundly emotional meeting.

I have given a great deal of thought to what was said then and what I heard now. We can do better. I would like to mention just a few specific things, for you have all heard years of pretty words.

There is no more crucial building block for a strong community and a promising future than a solid home. Today I want to talk about a number of things the government and the private sector are going to do to increase home ownership.

Our whole team visited those new homes that are being built not far from here. We talked to the families that are moving into those homes. I had a little boy take me through every room in the home, tell me exactly where every closet was, tell me what his sister's room had that he didn't have and why it was all right because she was older and she needed such things.

This is important. So what are we going to do? Private lenders like Bank of America, Northwest, BankOne, Washington Mutual are going to work with the Mortgage Bankers Association and HUD to more than double the number of government-insured or guaranteed home mortgages in Indian country in each of the next three years.

(APPLAUSE)

CLINTON: Right here in Pine Ridge, Fannie Mae, under Frank Raines (ph) leadership, has set aside millions of dollars to help you buy those homes at below-market rates, and they are spending hundreds of millions of dollars all across this country to help people just like you become home owners for the first time.

(APPLAUSE)

*** Elapsed Time 00:13, Eastern Time 02:14 ***

Secretary Cuomo's Partnership for Housing is giving financial incentives and counseling to help families figure out how to actually get this done, how to buy their own homes and pay for them.

But, as I heard over and over today, even if we went in and tried to repair or rebuild or build new homes for every family here and in every Indian community throughout the United States, we must have jobs if we want these communities to work.

(APPLAUSE)

Adults to have something to look forward to every morning when they get up, and if they want their kids to stay in school and stay out of trouble and look to tomorrow, their lives have to be evidence that looking to tomorrow pays off.

*** Elapsed Time 00:14, Eastern Time 02:15 ***

It is appalling that we have the highest growth rate in peacetime in our history, that we have an unemployment before 5 percent for two years, and the unemployment rate on this hallowed reservation is almost 75 percent. That is appalling, and we can do better.

(APPLAUSE)

CLINTON: No community in America can grow, however, without basic building blocks. No community in America should be without safe running water and sewer systems. So the Department of Agriculture will put nearly \$16 million in water projects throughout Indian country, including two right here in Pine Ridge. That will also help you get jobs as well as improve the quality of life.

(APPLAUSE)

As you can see in this big sky country it is rather warm and it gets windy from time to time as the natives will attest. The Department of Energy will help harness the power and profits of wind and solar energy to save money and make money.

*** Elapsed Time 00:15, Eastern Time 02:16 ***

(APPLAUSE)

Owens Corning and North American Steel Framing Alliance will provide skills training and the promise of quality jobs. And Citibank and Gateway computer company will work with Oglala Lakota College and other schools to help Native American students get the computer skills that will allow them to get 21st century jobs.

(APPLAUSE)

And our Federal Communications Commission will work with you to improve telephone service throughout Indian country, an absolute prerequisite for getting any new business in here.

*** Elapsed Time 00:16, Eastern Time 02:17 ***

Let me just say that one of the things that we have learned is that computers and the Internet make it possible for many people to do many kinds of work -- many kinds of work in any community anywhere in the United States, indeed increasingly anywhere in the world.

CLINTON: The fact that this reservation is a long way from an urban center would have been an absolute prohibitive barrier to a lot of economic development just 10 or 15 years ago. The explosion of computer technology and the Internet -- if you know how to use it and you know how to deliver for others with it -- has literally made the distance barrier almost insignificant for many kinds of economic activity.

So I want to implore you to use your tribal college and work with these companies and make the most of the skills they are offering, and we can get the jobs to come here once you can do them.

*** Elapsed Time 00:17, Eastern Time 02:18 ***

Finally, we must seize the vast potential of tourism right here in Pine Ridge by building a Lakota-Sioux Heritage Cultural Center. Every year, millions of families travel long, long distances to see Mount Rushmore -- 2.7 million last year.

The Crazy Horse memorial: about a million and a half, even though only the head has been finished. The Crazy Horse memorial last year had a million and a half visitors. Only the head has been finished. I went there late last night.

And the Badlands National Park....

Now, if you look at that, you have to ask yourself, how can you have -- how many people -- if you did everything right down here, if we built this cultural center, of all the people that go to see Crazy Horse, of all the people that go to see Mount Rushmore, of all the people that go to Badlands National Park, how many would come here? I'll tell you, a whole lot. An enormous percentage, if you give them something to come and see.

That is nothing more than the simple, profound, powerful story of your eloquent past and your present, of your skills and your heritage and your culture and your faith.

These commitments that we are making today are just the beginning.

Thirty-one years ago this spring, Senator Robert Kennedy came to Pine Ridge.

*** Elapsed Time 00:18, Eastern Time 02:19 ***

Many of you probably still remember that visit: Senator Kennedy seeking medical care for his child lying sick in the back of an abandoned car, refusing to sit and begin an important meeting until all of the tribal leaders had their proper seats.

CLINTON: You may remember his message of hope. Let me say that all across America, people were watching that.

I have to say on a purely personal note, one of the most touching things about this day for me is that the wife of our HUD secretary is Robert Kennedy's daughter, and she is here today, and this is a proud day. I'd like to ask her to stand. Kerry, please stand.

(APPLAUSE)

Thank you. Give her a hand. Thank you.

(APPLAUSE)

We lost all those years. There were a lot of reasons. And a lot of things here are better than they were 30 years ago. But this is the first time since the early 1960s when we had this kind of strong American economy, and we have no excuse for walking away from our responsibilities to the new markets of America.

*** Elapsed Time 00:20, Eastern Time 02:21 ***

I have asked the members of Congress to go back and pass legislation that will give major tax breaks and government guaranteed loans to people who will put their money in Indian country; to lower the risk of taking this chance.

(APPLAUSE)

We are going to everything we can to make your empowerment zone work. But remember, there is nothing that we can do except to help you to realize your own dreams.

So I say to every tribal leader here, the name of the conference you are attending is "Shared Visions." We must share the vision and it must be fundamentally yours -- for your children and their future. If you will give us that vision and work with us, we will achieve it.

Thank you and God bless you.

(APPLAUSE)

END

NOTES:

???? - Indicates Speaker Unkown

- Could not make out what was being said.

off mike - Indicates Could not make out what was being said.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PERSON: DALE E KILDEE (50%); ED PASTOR (50%); UNITED STATES (52%); MICHIGAN,
USA (50%);

LOAD-DATE: July 7, 1999

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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release August 6, 1998

August 6, 1998

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF COMMERCE
THE SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT
THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY
ADMINISTRATOR OF THE SMALL BUSINESS
ADMINISTRATION

SUBJECT: Economic Development in American Indian and
Alaska Native Communities

Across America, communities are recognizing that technology and information technologies are key to creating economic opportunities and increasing productivity. My Administration has made substantial gains in spurring the development of an advanced information infrastructure in order to bring the benefits of the Information Age to all Americans.

Looking to the future, we know that technology is critical to economic growth. We need to stimulate the growth of modern production facilities, small business incubators, capital access for start-up companies, and strategic planning to develop a vision for technologically competent communities. In particular, as telecommunications and information technologies continue to play a key role in providing new job and educational opportunities, we must ensure that all of our communities are able to participate fully in the new information economy.

Because of their often remote locations, American Indian and Alaska Native communities stand to benefit greatly from the Information Age, yet are in grave danger of being left behind. For example, a recent Department of Commerce study on Internet and computer usage in America shows that, although many more Americans now own computers, minority and low-income households are still far less likely than white and more affluent households to have personal computers or access to the Internet. Even more disturbing, this study reveals that this "digital divide" between households of different races and income levels is growing. We must act to ensure that American Indian and Alaska Native communities gain the new tools they need to battle high levels of unemployment and low per-capita income.

The ability to own a home and have access to capital are also very important for economic development. Residents of Indian reservations encounter several unique issues when seeking to obtain a mortgage. Trust land status, tribal sovereignty, and requirements to gain clear title from the Bureau of Indian Affairs are examples of issues that lenders and borrowers must grapple with during the mortgage lending process. Thus, individuals seeking to acquire a homesite lease or a

residential mortgage are often required to obtain approval from several Federal, tribal, State, and local agencies as well as private providers.

I am proud that the Department of Commerce, particularly through the Economic Development Administration, has a 30-year history of investing over \$730 million in economic development projects in American Indian and Alaska Native communities, working with its existing network of 65 tribal planning organizations. Additionally, the Commerce Department's National Telecommunications and Information Administration has funded demonstration projects that help show Native American communities how they can use technologies to improve the quality of life on reservations. And the Commerce Department's Minority Business Development Agency has funded eight Native American Business Development Centers that provide assistance with accounting, administration, business planning, construction, and marketing.

To continue our focus on infrastructure technology needs and business development in American Indian and Alaska Native communities, I direct the following actions.

First, I direct the Secretary of Commerce, in collaboration with the Department of the Interior and tribal governments, to report back to me within 9 months on the state of infrastructure technology needs in Indian communities, including distance learning facilities, telecommunications capabilities, and manufacturing facilities. This report should identify the infrastructure technology needs in Indian country and set forth proposals that would help address these needs.

Second, I direct the Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary of Commerce, and the Administrator of the Small Business Administration to report back to me within 90 days with a strategic plan for coordinating existing economic development initiatives for Native American and Alaska Native communities, including initiatives involving the private sector. In developing this strategic plan, the Secretaries and the Administrator should consult with all interested parties, including tribal governments and other Federal agencies and offices -- particularly, the Departments of Housing and Urban Development, Transportation, and Agriculture. The plan should build upon current efforts in the agencies and detail future efforts such as providing technical assistance, enhancing infrastructure, and developing software.

Third, I direct the Secretaries of the Treasury and of Housing and Urban Development, in partnership with local tribal governments and in cooperation with other Federal agencies -- particularly, the Departments of the Interior, Veterans Affairs, and Agriculture -- to initiate a project to help streamline the mortgage lending process in Indian country in order to improve access to mortgage loans on Indian reservations. The Secretaries should initiate this effort through a year-long pilot program on the Navajo Nation and in at least one other location.

These steps, taken together, will help ensure the continued economic development of American Indian and Alaska Native communities and help them recognize the full benefits of the Information Age.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release August 6, 1998

EXECUTIVE ORDER 13096

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AMERICAN INDIAN AND ALASKA NATIVE EDUCATION

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, in affirmation of the unique political and legal relationship of the Federal Government with tribal governments, and in recognition of the unique educational and culturally related academic needs of American Indian and Alaska Native students, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. Goals. The Federal Government has a special, historic responsibility for the education of American Indian and Alaska Native students. Improving educational achievement and academic progress for American Indian and Alaska Native students is vital to the national goal of preparing every student for responsible citizenship, continued learning, and productive employment. The Federal Government is committed to improving the academic performance and reducing the dropout rate of American Indian and Alaska Native students. To help fulfill this commitment in a manner consistent with tribal traditions and cultures, Federal agencies need to focus special attention on six goals: (1) improving reading and mathematics; (2) increasing high school completion and postsecondary attendance rates; (3) reducing the influence of long-standing factors that impede educational performance, such as poverty and substance abuse; (4) creating strong, safe, and drug-free school environments; (5) improving science education; and (6) expanding the use of educational technology.

Sec. 2. Strategy. In order to meet the six goals of this order, a comprehensive Federal response is needed to address the fragmentation of government services available to American Indian and Alaska Native students and the complexity of inter-governmental relationships affecting the education of those students. The purpose of the Federal activities described in this order is to develop a long-term, comprehensive Federal Indian education policy that will accomplish those goals.

(a) Interagency Task Force. There is established an Interagency Task Force on American Indian and Alaska Native Education (Task Force) to oversee the planning and implementation of this order. The Task Force shall confer with the National Advisory Council on Indian Education (NACIE) in carrying out activities under this order. The Task Force shall consult with representatives of American Indian and Alaska Native tribes and organizations, including the National Indian Education Association (NIEA) and the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI), to gather advice on implementation of the activities called for in this order.

(b) Composition of the Task Force. (1) The membership of the Task Force shall include representatives of the Departments of the Treasury, Defense, Justice, the Interior, Agriculture, Commerce, Labor, Health and Human Services, Housing and Urban Development, Transportation, Energy, and Education, as well as the Environmental Protection Agency, the Corporation for National and Community Service, and the National Science Foundation. With the agreement of the Secretaries of Education and the Interior, other agencies may participate in the activities of the Task Force.

(2) Within 30 days of the date of this order, the head of each participating agency shall designate a senior official who is responsible for management or program administration to serve as a member of the Task Force. The official shall report directly to the agency head on the agency's activities under this order.

(3) The Assistant Secretary for Elementary and Secondary Education of the Department of Education and the Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs of the Department of the Interior shall co-chair the Task Force.

(c) Interagency plan. The Task Force shall, within 90 days of the date of this order, develop a Federal interagency plan with recommendations identifying initiatives, strategies, and ideas for future interagency action supportive of the goals of this order.

(d) Agency participation. To the extent consistent with law and agency priorities, each participating agency shall adopt and implement strategies to maximize the availability of the agency's education-related programs, activities, resources, information, and technical assistance to American Indian and Alaska Native students. In keeping with the spirit of the Executive Memorandum of April 29, 1994, on Government-to-Government Relations with Native American Tribal Governments and Executive Order 13084 of May 14, 1998, each participating agency shall consult with tribal governments on their education-related needs and priorities, and on how the agency can better accomplish the goals of this order. Within 6 months, each participating agency shall report to the Task Force regarding the strategies it has developed to ensure such consultation.

(e) Interagency resource guide. The Task Force shall identify, within participating Federal agencies, all education-related programs and resources that support the goals of this order. Within 12 months, the Task Force, in conjunction with the Department of Education, shall develop, publish, and widely distribute a guide that describes those programs and resources and how American Indians and Alaska Natives can benefit from them.

(f) Research. The Secretary of Education, through the Office of Educational Research and Improvement and the Office of Indian Education, and in consultation with NACIE and participating agencies, shall develop and implement a comprehensive Federal research agenda to:

(1) establish baseline data on academic achievement and retention of American Indian and Alaska Native students in order to monitor improvements;

(2) evaluate promising practices used with those students; and

(3) evaluate the role of native language and culture in the development of educational strategies. Within 1 year, the Secretary of Education shall submit the research agenda, including proposed timelines, to the Task Force.

(g) Comprehensive Federal Indian education policy.

(1) The Task Force shall, within 2 years of the date of this order, develop a comprehensive Federal Indian education policy to support the accomplishment of the goals of this order. The policy shall be designed to:

(A) improve Federal interagency cooperation;

(B) promote intergovernmental collaboration; and

(C) assist tribal governments in meeting the unique educational

needs of their children, including the need to preserve,

revitalize, and use native languages and cultural traditions.

(2) In developing the policy, the Task Force shall consider ideas in the Comprehensive Federal Indian Education Policy Statement proposal developed by the NIEA and the NCAI.

(3) The Task Force shall develop recommendations to implement the policy, including ideas for future interagency action.

(4) As appropriate, participating agencies may develop memoranda of agreement with one another to enable and enhance the ability of tribes and schools to provide, and to coordinate the delivery of, Federal, tribal, State, and local resources and services, including social and health-related services, to meet the educational needs of American Indian and Alaska Native students.

(h) Reports. The Task Force co-chairs shall submit the comprehensive Federal Indian education policy, and report annually on the agencies' activities, accomplishments, and progress toward meeting the goals of this order, to the Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

Sec. 3. Regional partnership forums. The Departments of Education and the Interior, in collaboration with the Task Force and Federal, tribal, State, and local government representatives, shall jointly convene, within 18 months, a series of regional forums to identify promising practices and approaches on how to share information, provide assistance to schools, develop partnerships, and coordinate intergovernmental strategies supportive of accomplishing the goals of this order. The Departments of Education and the Interior shall submit a report on the forums to the Task Force, which may include recommendations relating to intergovernmental relations.

Sec. 4. School pilot sites. The Departments of Education and the Interior shall identify a reasonable number of schools funded by the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) and public schools that can serve as a model for schools with American Indian and Alaska Native students, and provide them with comprehensive technical assistance in support of the goals of this order. A special team of technical assistance providers, including Federal staff, shall provide assistance to these schools. Special attention shall be given, where appropriate, to assistance in implementing comprehensive school reform demonstration programs that meet the criteria for those programs established by the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1998 (Public Law 105-78), and to providing comprehensive service delivery that connects and uses diverse Federal agency resources. The team shall disseminate effective and promising practices of the school pilot sites to other local educational agencies. The team shall report to the Task Force on its accomplishments and its recommendations for improving technical support to local educational agencies and schools funded by the BIA.

Sec. 5. Administration. The Department of Education shall provide appropriate administrative services and staff support to the Task Force. With the consent of the Department of Education, other participating agencies may provide administrative support to the Task Force, consistent with their statutory authority, and may detail agency employees to the Department of Education, to the extent permitted by law.

Sec. 6. Termination. The Task Force established under section 2 of this order shall terminate not later than 5 years from the date of this order.

Sec. 7. General provisions. This order is intended only to improve the internal management of the executive branch and is not intended to, and does not, create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or equity by a party against the United States, its agencies or instrumentalities, its officers or employees, or any other person. This order is not intended to preclude, supersede, replace, or otherwise dilute any other Executive order relating to American Indian and Alaska Native education.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

THE WHITE HOUSE,

August 6, 1998.

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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary
(Pine Ridge, South Dakota)

For Immediate Release July 7, 1999

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
TO THE PINE RIDGE INDIAN RESERVATION COMMUNITY

Pine Ridge, South Dakota

12:00 P.M. MDT

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much. Thank you. Thank you, Mr. President, and thank you to all of you here from Pine Ridge and all the other tribal leaders who are here for HUD's Shared Vision Conference. I am profoundly honored to be in Pine Ridge and in the Lakota Nation. In fact, to try to demonstrate my appreciation and respect, I would like to try -- to try to say something in Lakota. Mitakuye Oyasin.

My neighbors, my friends, we are all related. Consider those who have come here today to join hands with you, along with Secretary Cuomo, Secretary Glickman, your great congressional delegation, our Democratic leader, Tom Daschle in the United States Senate and Senator Johnson, Congressman Thune. You don't know this, but we have members of Congress from all over America who have come here to express their support and their commitment to join you in building a better tomorrow.

Congressman Ed Pastor from Arizona; Congressman Dale Kildee, from the state of Michigan; Congressman Jim Clyburn, from South Carolina; and Congressman Paul Kanjorski, from Pennsylvania, he has come all the way from Pennsylvania to be here.

I want to thank the other people from the administration, especially Assistant Secretary of the Interior, Kevin Gover and Lynn Cutler, in the White House, who work with all of our Native American leaders around America, for what they do. I want to thank the CEO of Fannie Mae, Frank Raines; the CEO of Northwest, Mark Omen; the PMI President, Roger Horton; Mortgage Bankers Association President Don Lang; Champion Homes CEO Walter Young -- for all the work that they are prepared to do in building a better future and they're here today.

I want to thank my good friend, Jesse Jackson, for never letting us forget our common obligations. I thank the other members of our delegation today -- Bart Harvey, from Enterprise; Al From, from the Democratic Leadership Council. I'd like to thank the young AmeriCorps volunteers who are here today for all the work they do.

I would like to finally say a word of appreciation to all the people who live here on this reservation, who welcomed me into their homes, who talked to me today as I walked down their streets. I thank especially Geraldine Bluebird, who Secretary Cuomo mentioned -- she let me sit

on her porch and she told me how she tries to make ends meet for the 28 people that share her small home and the house trailer adjoining.

I thank the children who stopped their playing and shook hands with me and listened to me while I encouraged them to stay in school and to go onto college and to live out their dreams. I want to bring you greetings from two people who are not here -- first, from Vice President Gore, who has headed our empowerment zone effort that Pine Ridge became a part of today. And, second, just a little over an hour ago, I talked to the First Lady, and Hillary has spent more time in Indian Country than any First Lady in history. She is intensely committed to this effort, and she asked me to say hello to you.

President Saulway said today I was the only President ever to come to an Indian reservation for a nation to nation business meeting. I remember back in 1994, I invited all the tribal leaders in America to the White House, and it was the first such gathering since the presidency of James Monroe in the 1820s. Now, I know that Calvin Coolidge came to Pine Ridge in the 1920s, and that President Roosevelt visited another Native American reservation, but no American President has been anywhere in Indian Country since Franklin Roosevelt was President. That is wrong, and we're trying to fix it today.

I was profoundly moved by the pipe ceremony, just as I was when your congressional delegation took me last night not only to Mount Rushmore, but to the Crazy Horse Memorial, and to the museum that is there with it.

But I ask you today, even as we remember the past, to think more about the future. We know well what the failings of the present and the past are. We know well the imperfect relationship that the United States and its government has enjoyed with the tribal nations. But I have seen today not only poverty, but promise.

And I have seen enormous courage. I came here today for three reasons. First of all, to celebrate the empowerment zone and the housing projects that are going on here now. Second, to talk about my New Markets Initiative and what else we can do. But, third, with the business leaders who are here -- and I've already introduced them, but I'd like to ask the business leaders I just mentioned to stand up. We want to send a message to America that this is a good place to invest. Good people live here. Good people live in Indian country, they deserve a chance to go to work. Thank you. Thank you.

You've already heard President Saulway and Secretary Cuomo recite the statistics. It's a hot day out here and I know you're suffering in the sun. But I want to send a message to America. So I just want to say a few things, and I want you to think about this. Think about the irony of this. We are in the longest period of economic growth in peacetime in our history.

We have in America almost 19 million new jobs. We have the lowest unemployment rate ever recorded for African Americans and Hispanics. For over two years our country has had an unemployment rate below 5 percent. But here on this reservation, the unemployment rate is nearly 75 percent. That is wrong, and we have to do something to change it, and do it now.

When we are on the verge of a new century and a new millennium where people are celebrating the miracles of technology, and the world growing closer and closer together, and our ability to learn from and with each other and make business partnerships with each other all across our globe, and there are still reservations with few phones and no banks, when still three or four families are forced to share two simple rooms, where communities where Native Americans live have deadly disease and infant mortality rates at many times the national rate, when these things still persist, we cannot rest until we do better. And trying is not enough; we have to have results. We can do better.

Our nation will never have a better chance. When will we ever have this kind of opportunity where unemployment is low, inflation is low, there's a lot of money in our country, the value of our stock market has tripled and then some. Business people are looking for new places to invest, and people who have done well feel a moral obligation to try to help those who are less fortunate, who have not fully participated.

And we see it from Appalachia to the Mississippi Delta to the inner cities of our country, to the Native American communities. If we can't do this now, we will never get around to doing it. So let us give ourselves a gift for the 21st century -- an America where no one is left behind and everyone has a chance.

We will do our part. You have suffered from neglect, and you know that doesn't work. You have also suffered from the tyranny of patronizing inadequately funded government programs, and you know that doesn't work. We have tried to have a more respectful, more proper relationship with the tribal governments of this country to promote more genuine independence, but also to give more genuine support. And the empowerment zone program, as the Vice President and I designed it six years ago, is designed to treat all communities that way. We're not coming from Washington to tell you exactly what to do and how to do it, we're coming from Washington to ask you what you want to do, and tell you we will give you the tools and the support to get done what you want to do for your children and their future.

President Saulway and a number of tribal leaders came to me at the White House a couple of months ago. You may have heard in the national press that I repeatedly referred to this profoundly emotional meeting. I have given a great deal of thought to what was said then and what I heard now. We can do better. I would like to mention just a few specific things, for you have all heard years of pretty words.

There is no more crucial building block for a strong community and a promising future than a solid home. Today, I want to talk about a number of things the government and the private sector are going to do to increase homeownership. Our whole team visited those new homes that are being built not far from here. We talked to the families that are moving into those homes. I had a little boy take me through every room in the home, tell me exactly where every closet was, tell me what his sister's room had that he didn't have, and why it was all right, because she was older and she needed such things.

This is important. So what are we going to do? Private lenders, like Bank of America, Northwest, Bank One, Washington Mutual, are going to work with the Mortgage Bankers

Association and HUD, to more than double the number of government-insured or guaranteed home mortgages in Indian country in each of the next three years.

Right here in Pine Ridge, Fannie Mae, under Frank Raines' leadership, has set aside millions of dollars to help you buy those homes at below-market rates. And they are spending hundreds of millions of dollars all across this country to help people just like you become homeowners for the first time. And Secretary Cuomo's Partnership for Housing is giving financial incentives and counseling to help families figure out how to actually get this done, how to buy their own homes and pay for them.

But, as I heard over and over today, even if we went in and tried to repair or rebuild or build new homes for every family here, and in every Indian community throughout the United States, we must have jobs if we want these communities to work. Adults need to have something to look forward to every morning when they get up. And if they want their kids to stay in school, and stay out of trouble, and look to tomorrow, their lives have to be evidence that looking to tomorrow pays off. It is appalling that we have the highest growth rate in peacetime in our history; that we have an unemployment rate below 5 percent for two years, and the unemployment rate on this hallowed reservation is almost 75 percent. That is appalling, and we can do better.

No community in America, can grow, however, without basic blocks. No community in America should be without safe running water and sewer systems. So the Department of Agriculture will put nearly \$16 million in water projects throughout Indian country, including two right here in Pine Ridge, that will also help you get jobs, as well as improve the quality of life.

As you can see, in this Big Sky country, it is rather warm and it gets windy from time to time, as the Natives will attest. The Department of Energy will help you harness the power and profits of wind and solar energy, to save money and make money. Owens Corning and North American Steel Framing Alliance will provide skills training and the promise of quality jobs. And Citibank and Gateway Computer Company will work with Oglala Lakota College and other schools to help Native American students get the computer skills that will allow them to get 21st century jobs.

And our Federal Communications Commission will work with you to improve telephone service throughout Indian Country, an absolute prerequisite for getting any new business in here.

Let me just say that one of the things that we have learned is that the computer and the Internet make it possible for many people to do many kinds of work in any community, anywhere in the United States; indeed, increasingly, anywhere in the world. The fact that this reservation is a long way from an urban center would have been an absolute prohibitive barrier to a lot of economic development just 10 or 15 years ago.

The explosion of computer technology and the Internet, if you know how to use it and you know how to deliver for others with it, has literally made the distance barrier almost insignificant for many kinds of economic activity. So I want to implore you to use your tribal college and

work with these companies and make the most of the skills they are offering, and we can get the jobs to come here once you can do them.

Finally, we must seize the vast potential of tourism right here in Pine Ridge by building a Lakota Sioux heritage cultural center. Every year, millions of families travel long, long distances to see Mt. Rushmore -- 2.7 million last year. The Crazy Horse Memorial, about a million and a half, even though only the head has been finished. The Crazy Horse Memorial last year had 1.5 million visitors; only the head has been finished. I went there late last night. And the Badlands National Park.

Now, if you look at that, you have to ask yourself: How can you have -- how many people, if you did everything right down here, if we built this cultural center, of all the people that go to see Crazy Horse, of all the people that go to see Mt. Rushmore, of all the people that go to Badlands National Park, how many would come here. I'll tell you -- a whole lot. An enormous percentage, if you give them something to come and see. That is nothing more than the simple, profound, powerful story of your eloquent past and your present, of your skills and your heritage and your culture and your faith.

These commitments that we are making today are just the beginning. Thirty-one years ago this spring, Senator Robert Kennedy came to Pine Ridge. Many of you probably still remember that visit. Senator Kennedy, seeking medical care for his child, lying sick in the back of an abandoned car, refusing to sit and begin an important meeting until all of the tribal leaders had their proper seats.

You may remember his message of hope. Let me say that all across America, people were watching that. I have to say, on a purely personal note, one of the most touching things about this day for me is that the wife of our HUD Secretary is Robert Kennedy's daughter, and she is here today and this is a proud day. I'd like to ask her to stand. Kerry, please stand. Thank you.

We lost all those years. There were a lot of reasons, and a lot of things are better than they were 30 years ago. But this is the first time since the early 1960s when we had this kind of strong American economy, and we have no excuse for walking away from our responsibilities to the new markets of America.

I have asked the members of Congress to go back and pass legislation that will give major tax breaks and government-guaranteed loans to people who will put their money in Indian Country, to lower the risk of taking this chance. We are going to do everything we can to make your empowerment zone work. But remember -- there is nothing that we can do except to help you to realize your own dreams.

So I say to every tribal leader here: The name of the conference you are attending is Shared Visions. We must share the vision, and it must be, fundamentally, yours -- for your children and their future. If you will give us that vision and work with us, we will achieve it.

Thank you, and God bless you.

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FDCH Political Transcripts

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HEADLINE: DELIVERS REMARKS ON IMPROVING THE ECONOMIES OF NATIVE
AMERICAN COMMUNITIES; WASHINGTON, D.C.

SPEAKER: WILLIAM J. CLINTON, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

BODY:

PRESIDENT CLINTON DELIVERS REMARKS ON IMPROVING THE ECONOMIES OF

NATIVE AMERICAN COMMUNITIES

AUGUST 6, 1998

*** Elapsed Time 00:00, Eastern Time 13:53 ***

SPEAKER: WILLIAM J. CLINTON, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

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CLINTON: Thank you very much. Thank you. (APPLAUSE) Thank you.

Thank you for the wonderful welcome. Thank you for the song. Thank you, Dominic (ph), for giving us a picture of opportunity and hope for the future. I'm very glad that you're not only a good student but a good entrepreneur and a good promoter. Dominic (ph) was kind enough to give me one of his bracelets before I came out. (LAUGHTER) So... (APPLAUSE) I'm his latest walking advertisement. (LAUGHTER) And I'm glad to shill for him. I would like to thank the members of the administration, the 15 agencies that have come together with the White House to sponsor this conference. I thank Secretary Daley, Secretary Riley, Secretary Glickman, Small Business Administrator Aida Alvarez, who are here. *** Elapsed Time 00:01, Eastern Time 13:54 *** I'd like to thank Deputy Assistant Secretary Michael Anderson (ph), Kevin Gover (ph), Art Van Norman (ph), Angela Hammond (ph), and two young people on our staff -- Julie Fernandez (ph) and Mary Smith (ph) -- who worked with Mickey Ibarra (ph) and Lynn Cutler. All of them worked very hard on this conference. I thank them. I'm proud to be... (APPLAUSE) Thank you. I'm proud to be here with Chief Marge Anderson (ph), Governor Walter deShenno (ph), Chief Joyce Duggan (ph), Chairman Frank Ettawayejip (ph), Chairman Roland Harris (ph), Chairwoman Catherine Harrison (ph), President Ivan Makehill (ph), Governor Mary Thomas (ph), Chairman Brian Wallace (ph), President John Yellowbird Steele (ph). I thank all of you. I have looked forward to this day for quite a long time. The Iroquois teach us that every decision we make, every action we take must be judged not only on

the impact it makes today, but on the impact it makes on the next seven generations. ***
Elapsed Time 00:02, Eastern Time 13:55 ***

It is, therefore, fitting on the eve of a new century and a new millennium that we come together today to determine what we must do to build a stronger future for our children, for our grandchildren, for future generations of Native Americans and, indeed, for all Americans.

CLINTON: For too many Americans, our understanding of Native Americans is frozen in time. In sepia tone photography of legendary chieftains; in the ancient names of rivers, lakes and mountain ranges; in the chapters of old the history books. But as we have all seen at this conference, there are more than two million members of tribal nations in the United States -- from energetic young entrepreneurs like Dominic (ph) to innovative leaders like the ones sitting here with me today -- are a vital part of today's America and must be an even more vital part of tomorrow's America. *** Elapsed Time 00:03, Eastern Time 13:56 *** (APPLAUSE) We are living in a time of great opportunity and hope with our economy the strongest in a generation. Soon, we would have the first balanced budget and surplus in 29 years; the lowest unemployment in 28 years; the highest home ownership in history. Social problems are finally beginning to bend to our efforts as a nation -- the crime rate, the lowest in 25 years; the welfare rolls, the smallest percentage of our people in 29 years. We are taking strong steps toward the America I dreamed of when I first ran for this office beginning in late 1991 -- an America where there is opportunity for all, responsibility from all, a community of all our people. *** Elapsed Time 00:04, Eastern Time 13:57 *** It is a time of unprecedented prosperity for some of our tribes as well. Gaming and a variety of innovative enterprises have enabled tribes to free their people from lives of poverty and dependence. The new wealth is sparking a cultural renaissance in parts of Indian country, as tribes build new community centers, museums, language schools, elder care centers.

CLINTON: But we also know the hard truth -- that on far too many reservations across America, such glowing statistics and reports mean very little indeed. *** Elapsed Time 00:05, Eastern Time 13:58 *** While some tribes have found new success in our new economy, too many more remain caught in a cycle of poverty, unemployment and disease. The facts are all too familiar.

CLINTON: Most of all, every individual must take responsibility to seize the opportunities of this new time and to break the cycle of poverty. As president, I have worked very hard to honor tribal sovereignty and to strengthen our government-to-government relationships. Long ago, many of your ancestors gave up land, water and mineral rights in exchange for peace, security, health care, education from the federal government. It is a solemn pact. And while the United States government did not live up to its side of the bargain in the past, we can and we must honor it today and into that new millennium. (APPLAUSE) *** Elapsed Time 00:07, Eastern Time 14:00 *** Four years ago, when I became the first president since James Monroe in the 1820s to invite the leaders of every tribe to the White House, I issued a memorandum directing all federal agencies to consult with the Indian tribes before making decisions on matters affecting your people. This spring, I strengthened that directive so that decisions made by the federal government regarding Indian country are always made in cooperation with the tribes. In the last six months, Jackie Johnson (ph) has joined the staff at HUD, Carrie Billy (ph) at Education, Rhonda Whiting (ph) at the Small Business Administration to help coordinate and promote Native American initiatives at these agencies. Raynell Morris (ph) will join the White House Office of Intergovernmental Affairs to help Mickie Abarra (ph) and Lynn Cutler (ph) with Native American initiatives and outreach (ph). I welcome all to my administration. (APPLAUSE) *** Elapsed Time 00:08,

Eastern Time 14:01 *** We also, as all of you know, have been working very hard for more than a year now on a race initiative designed to address the opportunity gaps for all Americans. CLINTON: And I thank those of you who have had a role in that. The most recent public event we did with the race initiative was an hour-long conversation on Jim Lehrer's Public Broadcasting System show. The Native American community was represented by a delightful, energetic young man named Sherman Alexi (ph), who's new movie "Smoke Signals" is receiving very good reviews around the country. And I had it brought to me at the White House and watched it. He's got a great talent, and I wish him well. (APPLAUSE) Today, I want to talk about opportunity and about three tools of opportunity every American needs to thrive in the 21st century, how we can bring these tools to every person in every corner of Indian country -- from Pine Ridge, South Dakota; to Wonder (ph) Rock, Arizona; to Cherokee, North Carolina. The first... (APPLAUSE) That's OK. A little... (LAUGHTER) The first and most important tool of opportunity, of course, is education. Throughout history, in the United States, education has been the key to a better life for generations of Americans. This will clearly be even more true in a global knowledge-based economy that will reward children, but only children who have the skills to succeed and to keep learning for a lifetime. Today, fewer than two-thirds of our Native Americans over the age of 25 hold high school degrees. Fewer than 10 percent go on to college. If the trend continues, then the future for Native American children will become even bleaker. The opportunity gap between them and their peers will widen to a dangerous chasm. *** Elapsed Time 00:10, Eastern Time 14:03 *** In a few moments, therefore, I will sign an executive order directing our administration to work together with tribal and state governments to improve Native American achievement in math and reading; to raise high-school and post-secondary graduation rates; to reduce the influence of poverty and substance abuse on student performance; to create safe, drug-free schools; to expand the use of science and technology. CLINTON: I believe in this. I have done what I could to support Native American higher education and will continue to do so. We have also tried to open the doors of college to all with more Pell Grants, tax credits which make the first two years of college now virtually free to all Americans; increased work-study slots and the AmeriCorps community service slots; other things we have tried to do to make college education more affordable. But we have to have more people who are able to take advantage of it. *** Elapsed Time 00:11, Eastern Time 14:04 *** The second tool is high-quality health care. Native American communities will never reach their full potential if people continue to be hobbled by disease. Disease is often preventable, easily treatable. Native Americans are three times as likely to suffer from diabetes as white people. Therefore, they should get three times the benefit of the remarkable advances that we've made in the last year in the diabetes prevention effort. (APPLAUSE) We have -- the American Diabetes Association said that what we did for diabetes not too long ago was the most important step forward since the discovery of insulin. In treatment, in prevention, in research -- every tribe should not what is in the law, what the benefits are and should be in the position to take maximum advantage of it. Last summer, as I said, when I signed this legislation, I wanted to make sure that it helped all Americans with diabetes, but especially those in our Native American communities. Earlier this year, I launched an initiative to help eliminate health disparities between racial and ethnic minority groups by the year 2010. *** Elapsed Time 00:12, Eastern Time 14:05 *** I want to make sure Congress fully funds this initiative as well. Today, I am pleased to announce that we're going to make an adjustment in our new Children's Health Insurance Program to ensure that Native American children get the health care they need. (APPLAUSE) In the balanced budget -- thank you. (APPLAUSE) In the balanced budget

bill which passed Congress last year, we had \$24 billion over a five-year period to extend health insurance to five million more children. CLINTON: The action I am taking today makes sure that the money is fairly allocated so that Native American children, who are disproportionately without health insurance will now have their fair chance to be covered. (APPLAUSE) I also want you to know that I am committed to working with Congress and Secretary Shalala to elevate the director of the Indian Health Service, Dr. Michael Trujillo (ph), who is here today, to the rank of assistant secretary for health and human services. (APPLAUSE) By elevating the head of the Indian Health Service, we can ensure that the health needs of our Native Americans get the full consideration they deserve when it comes to setting health policy in our country. The third tool is economic opportunity in the form of jobs, credit, small businesses. Very few grocery stores, gas stations, restaurants and banks are doing business on reservations. As a result, money that could be used to build tribal economies and create jobs is spent, too often, off reservations. I've issued a new directive to boost economic development in Indian country. The directive will do three things. It will ask the Department of Commerce to work with the Interior Department and with the tribal governments to study and develop a plan to meet the technology infrastructure needs of Indian country. CLINTON: No tribe will be able to attract new business if it doesn't have the phone, fax, Internet and other technology capabilities essential to the 21st century. (APPLAUSE) The directive calls on several agencies to coordinate and strengthen our existing Native American economic development initiatives. And I might say, in particular, I think microcredit institutions have a terrific potential to do even more than some of you have already done for the last several years in Indian country. The community development financial institutions that we have established in this country in the last few years have played an important role in providing credit to people who otherwise could not get it to start small businesses or to expand small businesses. I have asked the Congress for a significant expansion in the Community Development Financial Institutions Act. I believe in my microlending. The United States, last year, through our aid programs, financed two million small loans in developing nations around the world. Think how much good we could do if we could finance two million small loans in developing communities in the United States of America. (APPLAUSE) We are also directing the Department of Treasury and HUD to work with tribal governments to create and improve one-stop mortgage shopping centers to help more Native Americans obtain loans more easily. CLINTON: And our first pilot will be in the Navajo nation. (APPLAUSE) Last, I am proud to announce a plan by the United States Department of Agriculture to help seven tribes get a foothold in our high-tech economy. The department will help these tribes establish small technology companies to obtain government contracts for software development and other services. I have asked HUD Secretary Andrew Cuomo to visit several reservations to determine what more his department and our administration can do to boost economic development there. A few weeks ago, he met with leaders of 60 Alaskan native villages. Today, he is visiting Pine Ridge (OFF-MIKE) Indian reservations in South Dakota. *** Elapsed Time 00:17, Eastern Time 14:10 *** The next millennium must be a time with great progress and prosperity for our Native American communities. And we can make it so. Today, the American Indian population is still very young. In the last census, 39 percent of all Native Americans were under the age of 20. I kind of wish I were one of them. (LAUGHTER) But this statistic is one that should bring us great hope even as it poses your and my greatest challenge. We have a new large generation of young people, who, if given the tools, the encouragement and the opportunity, can work together to lead their families out of the stifling poverty and despair of the past. So let us work to bring this

generation and the next seven generations a world of abundant hope and opportunity, where all tribes have vanquished poverty and disease, and all people have the tools to achieve their greatest potential. *** Elapsed Time 00:18, Eastern Time 14:11 *** I leave you with the words of the Lakota song we heard a few moments ago. Beneath the president's flag, the people stand, that they may grow for generations to come. Let us stand together under America's flag to build that kind of future for generations to come.

Thank you, and God bless you. (APPLAUSE) Thank you. Can we have all the people come up (OFF-MIKE)? (APPLAUSE) *** Elapsed Time 00:19, Eastern Time 14:12 *** Thank you. END NOTES: ??? - Indicates Speaker Unkown

- Could not make out what was being said. off mike - Indicates Could not make out what was being said.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PERSON: WILLIAM JEFFERSON 'BILL' CLINTON (94%); MARY ELIZABETH 'LIZ' SMITH (50%);

LOAD-DATE: August 6, 1998

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release August 6, 1998

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
TO WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE
BUILDING ECONOMIC SELF-DETERMINATION IN INDIAN COMMUNITIES

Grand Hyatt Hotel
Washington, D.C.

1:55 P.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you. Thank you for the wonderful welcome. Thank you for the song. Thank you, Dominic, for giving us a picture of opportunity and hope for the future. I'm very glad that you're not only a good student but a good entrepreneur and a good promoter. Dominic was kind enough to give me one of his bracelets before I came out. So I'm his latest walking advertisement, and I'm glad to shill for him.

I would like to thank the members of the administration, the 15 agencies that have come together with the White House to sponsor this conference. I thank Secretary Daley, Secretary Riley, Secretary Glickman, Small Business Administrator Aida Alvarez, who are here. I'd like to thank Deputy Assistant Secretary Michael Anderson; Kevin Gover, Mark Van Norman; Angela Hammond, and two young people on our staff, Julie Fernandes and Mary Smith, who work with Mickey Ibarra and Lynn Cutler; all of them worked very hard on this conference. I thank them. Thank you. I'm proud to be here with Chief Marge Anderson; Governor Walter Dasheno; Chief Joyce Dugan; Chairman Frank Ettewagechik; Chairman Roland Harris; Chairwoman Kathryn Harrison; President Ivan Makil; Governor Mary Thomas; Chairman Brian Wallace; President John Yellow Bird Steele. I thank all of you. I have looked forward to this day for quite a long time. The Iroquois teach us that every decision we make, every action we take, must be judged not only on the impact it makes today but on the impact it makes on the next seven generations. It is, therefore, fitting on the eve of a new century and a new millennium, that we come together today to determine what we must do to build a stronger future for our children, for our grandchildren, for future generations of Native Americans, and indeed for all Americans. For too many Americans, our understanding of Native Americans is frozen in time -- in sepia-toned photography of legendary chieftains; in the ancient names of rivers, lakes, and mountain ranges; in the chapters of old history books. But as we have all seen at this conference, the more than 2 million members of tribal nations in the United States -- from energetic, young entrepreneurs like Dominic to innovative leaders like the ones sitting here with me today -- are a vital part of today's America and must be an even more vital part of tomorrow's America. We are living in a time of great opportunity and hope, with our economy the strongest in a generation. Soon we will have the first balanced budget and surplus in 29 years; the lowest unemployment in 28 years; the highest home ownership in history. Social problems are finally beginning to bend to our efforts as a nation -- the crime rate, the lowest in 25 years; the welfare

rolls, the smallest percentage of our people in 29 years. We are taking strong steps toward the America I dreamed of when I first ran for this office beginning in late 1991 -- an America where there is opportunity for all, responsibility from all, a community of all our people.

It is a time of unprecedented prosperity for some of our tribes as well. Gaming and a variety of innovative enterprises have enabled tribes to free their people from lives of poverty and dependence. The new wealth is sparking a cultural renaissance in parts of Indian country, as tribes build new community centers, museums, language schools, elder-care centers.

But we also know the hard truth -- that on far too many reservations across America such glowing statistics and reports mean very little indeed. While some tribes have found new success in our new economy, too many more remain caught in a cycle of poverty, unemployment, and disease. The facts are all too familiar. More than a third of all Native Americans still live in poverty. With unemployment at a 28-year low, still on some reservations more than 70 percent of all adults do not have regular work. Diabetes in Indian country has reached epidemic proportions. Other preventable diseases and alcoholism continue to diminish the quality of life for hundreds of thousands.

At a time of such great prosperity, when we know we don't have a person to waste, this is an unacceptable condition. That's why we're here today -- to find new ways to empower our people, especially our children, with the tools and the opportunity to build brighter futures for themselves and their families. Our government alone cannot solve the problems of Indian country, nor can tribal governments be left to fend alone for themselves.

Everyone must do his or her part -- tribal and federal governments, along with the private sector. We all have to work together to empower our people with the tools they need to succeed. Most of all, every individual must take responsibility to seize the opportunities of this new time and to break the cycle of poverty.

As President, I have worked very hard to honor tribal sovereignty and to strengthen our government-to-government relationships. Long ago, many of your ancestors gave up land, water, and mineral rights in exchange for peace, security, health care, education from the federal government. It is a solemn pact. And while the United States government did not live up to its side of the bargain in the past, we can and we must honor it today and into that new millennium.

Four years ago, when I became the first President since James Monroe in the 1820s to invite the leaders of every tribe to the White House, I issued a memorandum directing all federal agencies to consult with the Indian tribes before making decisions on matters affecting your people. This spring I strengthened that directive so that decisions made by the federal government regarding Indian country are always made in cooperation with the tribes. In the last six months, Jackie Johnson has joined the staff at HUD, Carrie Billy at Education, Rhonda Whiting at the Small Business Administration, to help coordinate and promote Native American initiatives at these agencies. Raynell Morris will join the White House Office of Intergovernmental Affairs to help Mickey Ibarra and Lynn Cutler with Native American initiatives and outreach. I welcome all to my administration.

We also, as all of you know, have been working very hard for more than a year now on a race initiative designed to address the opportunity gaps for all Americans, and I thank those of you who have had a role in that. The most recent public event we did with the race initiative was an hour-long conversation on Jim Lehrer's Public Broadcasting System show. The Native American community was represented by a delightful, energetic young man named Sherman Alexie, whose new movie, *Smoke Signals*, is receiving very good reviews around the country, and I had it brought to me at the White House and watched it. He's got a great talent, and I wish him well.

Today I want to talk about opportunity and about three tools of opportunity every American needs to thrive in the 21st century; how we can bring these tools to every person in every corner of Indian country, from Pine Ridge, South Dakota, to Window Rock, Arizona, to Cherokee, North Carolina.

(Yells from the audience.) THE PRESIDENT: That's okay.

The first and most important tool of opportunity, of course, is education. Throughout history, in the United States education has been the key to a better life for generations of Americans. This will clearly be even more true in a global, knowledge-based economy that will reward children, but only children who have the skills to succeed and to keep learning for a lifetime.

Today fewer than two-thirds of our Native Americans over the age of 25 hold high school degrees. Fewer than 10 percent go on to college. If the trend continues, then the future for Native American children will become even bleaker. The opportunity gap between them and their peers will widen to a dangerous chasm. In a few moments, therefore, I will sign an executive order directing our administration to work together with tribal and state governments to improve Native American achievement in math and reading, to raise high school and post-secondary graduation rates, to reduce the influence of poverty and substance abuse on student performance, to create safe, drug-free schools, to expand the use of science and technology. I believe in this. I have done what I could to support Native American higher education and will continue to do so.

We have also tried to open the doors of college to all, with more Pell grants, tax credits which make the first two years of college now virtually free to all Americans, increased work-study slots, and Americorps community service slots -- other things we have tried to do to make college education more affordable. But we have to have more people who are able to take advantage of it. The second tool is high-quality health care. Native American communities will never reach their full potential if people continue to be hobbled by disease -- diseases often preventable, easily treatable. Native Americans are three times as likely to suffer from diabetes as white people. Therefore, they should get three times the benefit of the remarkable advances that we made in the last year in the diabetes prevention effort. The American Diabetes Association said that what we did for diabetes not too long ago was the most important step forward since the discovery of insulin -- in treatment, in prevention, in research. Every tribe should know what is in the law, what the benefits are; it should be in a position to take maximum advantage of it. Last summer, as I said when I signed this legislation, I wanted to make sure that it helped all Americans with diabetes but especially those in our Native American

communities. Earlier this year I launched an initiative to help eliminate health disparities between racial and ethnic minority groups by the year 2010. I want you to make sure Congress fully funds this initiative as well. Today, I am pleased to announce that we're going to make an adjustment in our new children's health insurance program to ensure that Native American children get the health care they need. In the balanced budget bill which passed Congress last year, we had \$24 billion over a five-year period to extend health insurance to 5 million more children. The action I'm taking today makes sure that the money is fairly allocated so that Native American children who are disproportionately without health insurance will now have their fair chance to be covered. I also want you to know that I am committed to working with Congress and Secretary Shalala to elevate the Director of the Indian Health Service, Dr. Michael Trujillo, who is here today, to the rank of Assistant Secretary for Health and Human Services. By elevating the head of the Indian Health Service, we can ensure that the health needs of our Native Americans get the full consideration they deserve when it comes to setting health policy in our country. The third tool is economic opportunity, in the form of jobs, credit, small business. Very few grocery stores, gas stations, restaurants, and banks are doing business on reservations. As a result, money that could be used to build tribal economies and create jobs is spent too often off reservation. I've issued a new directive to boost economic development in Indian country. The directive will do three things. It will ask the Department of Commerce to work with the Interior Department and with the tribal governments to study and develop a plan to meet the technology infrastructure needs of Indian country. No tribe will be able to attract new business if it doesn't have the phone, fax, Internet, and other technology capabilities essential to the 21st century. The directive calls on several agencies to coordinate and strengthen existing Native America economic development initiatives. And I might say in particular, I think micro-credit institutions have a terrific potential to do even more than some of you have already done for the last several years in Indian country. The community development financial institutions that we have established in this country in the last few years have played an important role in providing credit to people who otherwise could not get it to start small businesses or to expand small businesses. I have asked the Congress for a significant expansion in the Community Development Financial Institutions Act. I believe in micro-lending. The United States last year through our aid programs financed 2 million small loans in developing nations around the world. Think how much good we could do if we could finance 2 million small loans in developing communities in the United States of America. We're also directing the Department of Treasury and HUD to work with tribal governments to create and improve one-stop mortgage shopping centers to help more Native Americans obtain loans more easily. And our first pilot will be in the Navajo nation. Last, I am proud to announce the plan by the United States Department of Agriculture to help seven tribes get a foothold in our high-tech economy. The Department will help these tribes establish small technology companies to obtain government contracts for software development and other services. I have asked HUD Secretary Andrew Cuomo to visit several reservations to determine what more his department and our administration can do to boost economic development there. A few weeks ago he met with leaders of 60 Alaskan native villages; today he's visiting Pine Ridge and Lower Brule Indian reservations in South Dakota. The next millennium must be a time of great progress and prosperity for our Native American communities, and we can make it so. Today American Indian population is still very young. In the last census 39 percent of all Native Americans were under the age of 20. I kind of wish I were one of them.

But this statistic is one that should bring us great hope, even as it poses your and my greatest challenge. We have a new large generation of young people who, if given the tools, the encouragement, and the opportunity, can work together to lead their families out of the stifling poverty and despair of the past. So let us work to bring this generation and the next seven generations a world of abundant hope and opportunity, where all tribes have vanquished poverty and disease and all people have the tools to achieve their greatest potential. I leave you with the words of the Lakota song we heard a few moments ago. "Beneath the President's flag, the people stand, that they may grow for generations to come." Let us stand together under America's flag to build that kind of future for generations to come. Thank you, and God bless you.

END

2:14 P.M. EDT

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release August 6, 1998

**PRESIDENT CLINTON ANNOUNCES INITIATIVES FOR NATIVE AMERICANS
RELATED TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, HEALTH CARE, AND EDUCATION**
August 6, 1998

Today, President Clinton will attend a conference sponsored by the White House and fifteen federal agencies, "Building Economic Self-Determination in Indian Communities." He will announce several initiatives aimed at improving economic self-sufficiency, increasing educational opportunities, and providing health care to Native Americans. The initiatives focus on: improving student achievement in reading and math for grades K-12; assessing the technology infrastructure needs of Indian country; coordinating existing federal economic development programs for Native Americans; creating a one-stop mortgage center in Indian country to streamline the mortgage process; creating technology-based jobs in Indian country; and adjusting the state funding from the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) to reflect accurately states' populations of Native American children. In addition, the President will call on Congress to pass legislation to elevate the Director of the Indian Health Service to an Assistant Secretary.

Creating Educational Opportunities for Native American Students

Native American Education Executive Order. Today, President Clinton will sign an executive order designed to improve the academic performance of American Indian and Alaska Native students in grades K-12. The order focuses special attention on the following five goals: (1) improving student achievement in reading and mathematics; (2) increasing high school completion and post-secondary attendance rates; (3) reducing the influence of long-standing factors that impede educational performance, such as poverty and substance abuse; (4) creating strong, safe, and drug-free school environments conducive to learning; and (5) expanding the use of science and educational technology. This order is structured to address Indian educational needs through participation at the federal, regional, and local levels. At the federal level, the order establishes an Interagency Task Force to plan initiatives, develop an education resource guide, and assist in implementing a comprehensive research agenda on Indian education. At the regional level, the order mandates a series of regional forums to identify promising practices. Finally, at the local level, the order establishes pilot sites that will receive comprehensive technical assistance in support of the goals of the order.

Expanding Economic Development in Indian Country

Executive Directive for Economic Development in American Indian and Alaska Native Communities. The President will announce a directive with three components:

Technology Infrastructure Study. The President will direct the Department of Commerce, in collaboration with the Department of the Interior and tribal governments, to issue a report within nine months on the technology infrastructure needs within Indian country, including distance learning facilities, telecommunications capabilities, and manufacturing facilities.

Strategic Plan to Coordinate Economic Development. The President also will direct the Department of the Interior, the Department of Commerce, and the Small Business Administration to develop, within 90 days, a strategic plan for coordinating economic development initiatives for Native American and Alaska Native communities. The plan will build upon current efforts in the agencies and detail future efforts on matters such as providing technical assistance, enhancing infrastructure, and developing software.

One-Stop Mortgage Center. The President also will direct the Departments of Treasury and Housing and Urban Development, in partnership with local tribal governments and in cooperation with other federal agencies, to initiate a project to help streamline the mortgage lending process in Indian country in order to improve access to mortgage loans on Indian reservations. The agencies will initiate this effort through a year-long pilot program on the Navajo Nation and in at least one other location.

Providing \$70 Million to Create Technology-Based Jobs in Indian Country. The President will announce that the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), through its Bringing Rural America Venture Opportunities (BRAVO) initiative, will direct \$70 million to assist seven American Indian and Alaska Native tribes in establishing small start-up technology companies to obtain government contracts.

Improving Health Care for Native Americans

Legislation to Elevate the Director of the Indian Health Service to an Assistant Secretary. The President will call on Congress to pass legislation to elevate the Director of the Indian Health Service to an Assistant Secretary. This change will strengthen government-to-government relationships; facilitate communication and consultation with the Tribes on matters of Indian health; and raise awareness of Indian health concerns throughout the Department of Health and Human Services and the entire federal government.

Increase Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) funding in states with large numbers of Native American children by about \$20 million. The President will announce a change in the state-by-state allocation of the \$24 billion in the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) to count Native American children appropriately. Under this program, states receive a share of funds based on their proportion of uninsured children below 200 percent of poverty. When the Census Bureau produced these counts last September, it did not count vulnerable Native American children as "uninsured." Thus, even though such children are eligible for CHIP coverage, states with a large number of Native American children did not receive the appropriate share of funds. The President will announce that the Administration will revise these allotments. These revised allotments will be published in October. This effort will build upon the Administration's commitment to improve health care coverage for Native American children. Both the Department of Interior's Bureau of Indian Affairs and HHS's Indian Health Service are

committed to increase enrollment of uninsured Native American and Alaska Native children, including through the development and distribution of culturally relevant referral information to schools and social services.

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FDCH Political Transcripts

August 6, 1998, Thursday

TYPE: NEWS EVENT

LENGTH: 2632 words

HEADLINE: DELIVERS REMARKS ON IMPROVING THE ECONOMIES OF NATIVE AMERICAN
COMMUNITIES; WASHINGTON, D.C.

SPEAKER:
WILLIAM J. CLINTON, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

BODY:
PRESIDENT CLINTON DELIVERS REMARKS ON IMPROVING THE ECONOMIES OF
NATIVE AMERICAN COMMUNITIES
AUGUST 6, 1998

*** Elapsed Time 00:00, Eastern Time 13:53 ***

SPEAKER: WILLIAM J. CLINTON, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

*

CLINTON: Thank you very much. Thank you.

(APPLAUSE)

Thank you.

Thank you for the wonderful welcome. Thank you for the song. Thank you,
Dominic (ph), for giving us a picture of opportunity and hope for the future.

I'm very glad that you're not only a good student but a good entrepreneur and
a good promoter. Dominic (ph) was kind enough to give me one of his bracelets
before I came out.

(LAUGHTER)

So...

(APPLAUSE)

I'm his latest walking advertisement.

(LAUGHTER)

And I'm glad to shill for him.

I would like to thank the members of the administration, the 15 agencies that have come together with the White House to sponsor this conference. I thank Secretary Daley, Secretary Riley, Secretary Glickman, Small Business Administrator Aida Alvarez, who are here.

*** Elapsed Time 00:01, Eastern Time 13:54 ***

I'd like to thank Deputy Assistant Secretary Michael Anderson (ph), Kevin Gover (ph), Art Van Norman (ph), Angela Hammond (ph), and two young people on our staff -- Julie Fernandez (ph) and Mary Smith (ph) -- who worked with Mickey Ibarra (ph) and Lynn Cutler. All of them worked very hard on this conference.

I thank them.

I'm proud to be...

(APPLAUSE)

Thank you.

I'm proud to be here with Chief Marge Anderson (ph), Governor Walter deShenno (ph), Chief Joyce Duggan (ph), Chairman Frank Ettawayejip (ph), Chairman Roland Harris (ph), Chairwoman Catherine Harrison (ph), President Ivan Makehill (ph), Governor Mary Thomas (ph), Chairman Brian Wallace (ph), President John Yellowbird Steele (ph).

I thank all of you.

I have looked forward to this day for quite a long time. The Iroquois teach us that every decision we make, every action we take must be judged not only on the impact it makes today, but on the impact it makes on the next seven generations.

*** Elapsed Time 00:02, Eastern Time 13:55 ***

It is, therefore, fitting on the eve of a new century and a new millennium that we come together today to determine what we must do to build a stronger future for our children, for our grandchildren, for future generations of Native Americans and, indeed, for all Americans.

CLINTON: For too many Americans, our understanding of Native Americans is frozen in time. In sepia tone photography of legendary chieftains; in the ancient names of rivers, lakes and mountain ranges; in the chapters of old the history books. But as we have all seen at this conference, there are more than two million members of tribal nations in the United States -- from energetic young entrepreneurs like Dominic (ph) to innovative leaders like the ones sitting here with me today -- are a vital part of today's America and must be an even more vital part of tomorrow's America.

*** Elapsed Time 00:03, Eastern Time 13:56 ***

(APPLAUSE)

We are living in a time of great opportunity and hope with our economy the strongest in a generation. Soon, we would have the first balanced budget and surplus in 29 years; the lowest unemployment in 28 years; the highest home ownership in history.

Social problems are finally beginning to bend to our efforts as a nation -- the crime rate, the lowest in 25 years; the welfare rolls, the smallest percentage of our people in 29 years. We are taking strong steps toward the America I dreamed of when I first ran for this office beginning in late 1991 -- an America where there is opportunity for all, responsibility from all, a community of all our people.

*** Elapsed Time 00:04, Eastern Time 13:57 ***

It is a time of unprecedented prosperity for some of our tribes as well. Gaming and a variety of innovative enterprises have enabled tribes to free their people from lives of poverty and dependence.

The new wealth is sparking a cultural renaissance in parts of Indian country, as tribes build new community centers, museums, language schools, elder care centers.

CLINTON: But we also know the hard truth -- that on far too many reservations across America, such glowing statistics and reports mean very little indeed.

*** Elapsed Time 00:05, Eastern Time 13:58 ***

While some tribes have found new success in our new economy, too many more remain caught in a cycle of poverty, unemployment and disease. The facts are all too familiar.

CLINTON: Most of all, every individual must take responsibility to seize the opportunities of this new time and to break the cycle of poverty.

As president, I have worked very hard to honor tribal sovereignty and to strengthen our government-to-government relationships.

Long ago, many of your ancestors gave up land, water and mineral rights in exchange for peace, security, health care, education from the federal government. It is a solemn pact. And while the United States government did not live up to its side of the bargain in the past, we can and we must honor it today and into that new millennium.

(APPLAUSE)

*** Elapsed Time 00:07, Eastern Time 14:00 ***

Four years ago, when I became the first president since James Monroe in the 1820s to invite the leaders of every tribe to the White House, I issued a memorandum directing all federal agencies to consult with the Indian tribes before making decisions on matters affecting your people. This spring, I strengthened that directive so that decisions made by the federal government regarding Indian country are always made in cooperation with the tribes.

In the last six months, Jackie Johnson (ph) has joined the staff at HUD, Carrie Billy (ph) at Education, Rhonda Whiting (ph) at the Small Business Administration to help coordinate and promote Native American initiatives at these agencies. Raynell Morris (ph) will join the White House Office of Intergovernmental Affairs to help Mickie Abarra (ph) and Lynn Cutler (ph) with Native American initiatives and outreach (ph). I welcome all to my administration.

(APPLAUSE)

*** Elapsed Time 00:08, Eastern Time 14:01 ***

We also, as all of you know, have been working very hard for more than a year now on a race initiative designed to address the opportunity gaps for all Americans.

CLINTON: And I thank those of you who have had a role in that. The most recent public event we did with the race initiative was an hour-long conversation on Jim Lehrer's Public Broadcasting System show. The Native American community was represented by a delightful, energetic young man named Sherman Alexi (ph), who's new movie "Smoke Signals" is receiving very good reviews around the country. And I had it brought to me at the White House and watched it. He's got a great talent, and I wish him well.

(APPLAUSE)

Today, I want to talk about opportunity and about three tools of opportunity every American needs to thrive in the 21st century, how we can bring these tools to every person in every corner of Indian country -- from Pine Ridge, South Dakota; to Wonder (ph) Rock, Arizona; to Cherokee, North Carolina. The first...

(APPLAUSE)

That's OK. A little...

(LAUGHTER)

The first and most important tool of opportunity, of course, is education. Throughout history, in the United States, education has been the key to a better life for generations of Americans. This will clearly be even more true in a global knowledge-based economy that will reward children, but only children who have the skills to succeed and to keep learning for a lifetime.

Today, fewer than two-thirds of our Native Americans over the age of 25 hold high school degrees. Fewer than 10 percent go on to college. If the trend continues, then the future for Native American children will become even bleaker.

The opportunity gap between them and their peers will widen to a dangerous chasm.

*** Elapsed Time 00:10, Eastern Time 14:03 ***

In a few moments, therefore, I will sign an executive order directing our administration to work together with tribal and state governments to improve Native American achievement in math and reading; to raise high-school and post-secondary graduation rates; to reduce the influence of poverty and substance abuse on student performance; to create safe, drug-free schools; to expand the use of science and technology.

CLINTON: I believe in this. I have done what I could to support Native American higher education and will continue to do so.

We have also tried to open the doors of college to all with more Pell Grants, tax credits which make the first two years of college now virtually free to all Americans; increased work-study slots and the AmeriCorps community service slots; other things we have tried to do to make college education more affordable. But we have to have more people who are able to take advantage of it.

*** Elapsed Time 00:11, Eastern Time 14:04 ***

The second tool is high-quality health care. Native American communities will never reach their full potential if people continue to be hobbled by disease. Disease is often preventable, easily treatable.

Native Americans are three times as likely to suffer from diabetes as white people. Therefore, they should get three times the benefit of the remarkable advances that we've made in the last year in the diabetes prevention effort.

(APPLAUSE)

We have -- the American Diabetes Association said that what we did for diabetes not too long ago was the most important step forward since the discovery of insulin. In treatment, in prevention, in research -- every tribe should not what is in the law, what the benefits are and should be in the position to take maximum advantage of it.

Last summer, as I said, when I signed this legislation, I wanted to make sure that it helped all Americans with diabetes, but especially those in our Native American communities. Earlier this year, I launched an initiative to help eliminate health disparities between racial and ethnic minority groups by the year 2010.

*** Elapsed Time 00:12, Eastern Time 14:05 ***

I want to make sure Congress fully funds this initiative as well. Today, I am pleased to announce that we're going to make an adjustment in our new Children's Health Insurance Program to ensure that Native American children get the health care they need.

(APPLAUSE)

In the balanced budget -- thank you.

(APPLAUSE)

In the balanced budget bill which passed Congress last year, we had \$24 billion over a five-year period to extend health insurance to five million more children.

CLINTON: The action I am taking today makes sure that the money is fairly allocated so that Native American children, who are disproportionately without health insurance will now have their fair chance to be covered.

(APPLAUSE)

I also want you to know that I am committed to working with Congress and Secretary Shalala to elevate the director of the Indian Health Service, Dr. Michael Trujillo (ph), who is here today, to the rank of assistant secretary for health and human services.

(APPLAUSE)

By elevating the head of the Indian Health Service, we can ensure that the health needs of our Native Americans get the full consideration they deserve when it comes to setting health policy in our country.

The third tool is economic opportunity in the form of jobs, credit, small businesses. Very few grocery stores, gas stations, restaurants and banks are doing business on reservations.

As a result, money that could be used to build tribal economies and create jobs is spent, too often, off reservations. I've issued a new directive to boost economic development in Indian country.

The directive will do three things. It will ask the Department of Commerce to work with the Interior Department and with the tribal governments to study and develop a plan to meet the technology infrastructure needs of Indian country.

CLINTON: No tribe will be able to attract new business if it doesn't have the phone, fax, Internet and other technology capabilities essential to the 21st century.

(APPLAUSE)

The directive calls on several agencies to coordinate and strengthen our existing Native American economic development initiatives. And I might say, in particular, I think microcredit institutions have a terrific potential to do even more than some of you have already done for the last several years in Indian country.

The community development financial institutions that we have established in this country in the last few years have played an important role in providing credit to people who otherwise could not get it to start small businesses or to expand small businesses.

I have asked the Congress for a significant expansion in the Community Development Financial Institutions Act. I believe in my microlending.

The United States, last year, through our aid programs, financed two million small loans in developing nations around the world. Think how much good we could do if we could finance two million small loans in developing communities in the United States of America.

(APPLAUSE)

We are also directing the Department of Treasury and HUD to work with tribal governments to create and improve one-stop mortgage shopping centers to help more Native Americans obtain loans more easily.

CLINTON: And our first pilot will be in the Navajo nation.

(APPLAUSE)

Last, I am proud to announce a plan by the United States Department of Agriculture to help seven tribes get a foothold in our high-tech economy. The department will help these tribes establish small technology companies to obtain government contracts for software development and other services.

I have asked HUD Secretary Andrew Cuomo to visit several reservations to determine what more his department and our administration can do to boost economic development there. A few weeks ago, he met with leaders of 60 Alaskan native villages. Today, he is visiting Pine Ridge (OFF-MIKE) Indian reservations in South Dakota.

*** Elapsed Time 00:17, Eastern Time 14:10 ***

The next millennium must be a time with great progress and prosperity for our Native American communities. And we can make it so.

Today, the American Indian population is still very young. In the last census, 39 percent of all Native Americans were under the age of 20. I kind of wish I were one of them.

(LAUGHTER)

But this statistic is one that should bring us great hope even as it poses your and my greatest challenge. We have a new large generation of young people, who, if given the tools, the encouragement and the opportunity, can work together to lead their families out of the stifling poverty and despair of the past.

So let us work to bring this generation and the next seven generations a world of abundant hope and opportunity, where all tribes have vanquished poverty and disease, and all people have the tools to achieve their greatest potential.

*** Elapsed Time 00:18, Eastern Time 14:11 ***

I leave you with the words of the Lakota song we heard a few moments ago. Beneath the president's flag, the people stand, that they may grow for generations to come. Let us stand together under America's flag to build that kind of future for generations to come.

Thank you, and God bless you.

(APPLAUSE)

Thank you. Can we have all the people come up (OFF-MIKE)?

(APPLAUSE)

*** Elapsed Time 00:19, Eastern Time 14:12 ***

Thank you.

END

NOTES:

???? - Indicates Speaker Unknown

- Could not make out what was being said.

off mike - Indicates Could not make out what was being said.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PERSON: WILLIAM JEFFERSON 'BILL' CLINTON (94%); MARY ELIZABETH 'LIZ' SMITH (50%);

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