

Final 4/25/00 3pm
Diringer

PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON
VIDEOTAPED REMARKS FOR EARTH DAY ISSUE OF TIME MAGAZINE
April 27, 2000

A few months ago, all around the world, people of every creed and nationality greeted the dawn of a new millennium and its promise of a brighter future for our families, and our nations. But the new millennium also brings with it new challenges. I believe there is none more critical to our well-being – and to the well-being of future generations – than ensuring the health of our planet. It is a challenge that, ultimately, we must all face together.

Since the first Earth Day 30 years ago, America has made tremendous strides in protecting the environment. We have restored our rivers and lakes...protected our most precious lands...and provided cleaner air and water for millions of Americans. What's more, we have proven beyond doubt that we can protect and preserve our environment as we grow our economy. In fact, our air and water are the cleanest they have been in a generation, even as we enjoy the longest economic expansion in our nation's history.

America's responsibility now, after marking the first Earth Day of the 21st century, is to lead the world community against a set of new, more profound environmental challenges. Scientists warn us that our Earth is warming, and that its rich bio-diversity is disappearing faster each day. No nation can meet these challenges alone. Indeed, unless we face these threats together, the next century may dawn on an Earth in ecological crisis, with half of all species gone, and our grandchildren enduring deadly floods, drought and disease brought on by global warming.

That is why I believe so strongly that America must provide the leadership needed to put all nations on a cleaner, more sustainable path to prosperity. We must help developing countries build their economies by preserving, rather than destroying, their rain forests and other natural treasures. And we must help them leapfrog into the 21st century by rejecting the outdated Industrial Era logic that more pollution means more progress. Promising new technologies can deliver clean, efficient energy -- bringing new prosperity and opportunity, while fighting global warming.

Each of us can be proud of all we have done to protect and restore our precious environment. Now we must resolve to reach across borders, and carry on this work together, meeting the new challenges of a new millennium. For the sake of our children, and our planet.

BusinessWorld November 27, 2000, Monday

Copyright 2000 BusinessWorld Publishing Corporation
BusinessWorld

November 27, 2000, Monday

SECTION: Pg. 26

LENGTH: 1081 words

HEADLINE: Ford Motor Co., **National Geographic** team up for conservation awareness

BODY:

Two legendary institutions - the **National Geographic** Society and Ford Motor Co. - are coming together to address pressing conservation issues facing planet Earth through a multifaceted public awareness campaign called EarthPulse.

This global cross-media initiative was announced recently by the **National Geographic** Society president John Fahey and Ford Motor Co. chairman William Clay Ford, Jr. The announcement coincides with the 14th annual Geography Awareness Week in the US, which this year encourages conservation.

Beginning January 2001, the campaign will examine and report on Earth's "vital signs" - its oceans, its freshwater, its living creatures and more. EarthPulse will come to life through innovative educational activities and special editorial content throughout 2001 in **National Geographic** magazine, on **National Geographic** Channels International and a new **National Geographic** Channel in the US that launches in January, and on www.nationalgeographic.com/earthpulse. EarthPulse is a first for **National Geographic** - the first time a single corporation has sponsored an extensive society-wide initiative.

"We're very pleased to partner with a world-class organization like the **National Geographic** Society to address the issue of conservation," Mr. Ford said. "Enlightened corporations are beginning to understand that environmental issues are business issues as well - that successful businesses can only be successful if the communities and environments in which they do business are also successful."

In every country in the world and in an increasing number of languages, the famous yellow-border logo of the society is a symbol of adventure and quality. In recent years, **National Geographic** has extended its reach to the global community through its signature magazine, **National Geographic** and through **National Geographic** Channels International. Together, these two powerful mediums will share the society's commitment to conservation with the rest of the world through its compelling storytelling and images, both on the channel and in the magazine.

The **National Geographic** Society began the 20th century determined to explore the world and to broadly disseminate knowledge about it. According to Fahey, "These days we find that many of the places, cultures and natural resources we're examining are seriously threatened. So we enter the 21st century with the same determination to explore but with an added purpose: to encourage better stewardship of our planet. **National Geographic** is fortunate to have Ford Motor Co. as our partner as we launch EarthPulse."

In the last several years, concern for the environment has risen sharply around the globe, making the environment an important top-of-the-mind concern. A 1998 International Environment Monitor survey, the largest international public opinion survey conducted on the environment, highlighted that a majority of people in the world's most populous countries want tougher laws to protect the environment. And, in the United States, the latest Roper Green Gauge 2000 Survey, conducted in June, found that concern for the environment has risen sharply in the last year, with 22% of

Americans naming pollution of air and water as a top concern, up seven points since 1999.

EarthPulse is designed to correct this misinformation and heighten people's awareness of the environmental issues challenging our planet today. The society will harness its vast network of media - magazines, television, books, videos, maps and interactive media - to take on the challenge. Some of the programs and activities designed to raise awareness of critical conservation-oriented issues will be conducted throughout the year:

- * Special conservation programming to appear on **National Geographic** Channels International and on the new **National Geographic** Channel in the US. Programs include a 26-part series and shaft portraits of environmental heroes such as **National Geographic** Explorers-in-Residence Jane Goodall and Sylvia Earle.

- * Shared quarterly conservation themes across **National Geographic** magazine and nationalgeographic.com. The content will examine Earth's "vital signs."

- * The creation of an EarthPulse map with the World Wildlife Fund. The map is the first-of-its-kind world "eco-regions" map and educator's guide, and is richly illustrated to highlight the wonder and diversity of life on Earth. In addition, the map educates people on Earth's diverse habitats and areas critical to conservation.

Kickoff of a new **National Geographic** Society Conservation Trust to support conservation projects around the globe, another first at the Society.

- * A symposium of leading multi-national corporations and global environmental stakeholders to tackle critical topics such as leadership roles and responsibilities in the conservation arena.

- * Two interactive online contests designed to reward awareness and understanding of conservation issues.

Few companies are as closely identified with the history and development of America throughout the 20th century as Ford Motor Co., and perhaps no other American firm is as well known around the globe. That Henry Ford played a pivotal role in helping to put the world on wheels is universally known. Perhaps less well known was Ford's interest in and commitment to conservation and preservation of the Earth.

Those same interests remain part of the culture at Ford. For example, Ford Motor Co. is the first and only automaker to certify all of its plants around the world under ISO 14001, the international management standard that regulates and independently audits air, water, chemical handling and recycling. Ford's adherence to the standard in all its facilities is saving millions of dollars in energy, water, material and waste-handling costs. With 140 Ford factories in 26 countries all held to the same green standards, Ford also is requiring its supplier's meet these standards.

In 1998, Ford Motor Co. became involved with "Heroes for the Planet," a long-term commitment recognizing people who make a difference for planet Earth. On Jan. 7, Ford Motor Co. will honor the **National Geographic** Society as a "Hero for the Planet" in a live TV celebration at the Warner Theatre in Washington. The program will pay tribute to the Society and its efforts in conservation. The special will broadcast on **National Geographic** Channels International and will air live on the new **National Geographic** Channel in the US, which premieres that day.

LOAD-DATE: November 26, 2000

Source: [All Sources](#) : / . . . / : **News Group File, All** 

Terms: **headline (national geographic) and atl 20 (national geographic) and date geq (12/22/1995)** ([Edit Search](#))

View: Full

Date/Time: Friday, December 22, 2000 - 9:49 AM EST

Business Wire November 14, 2000, Tuesday

Copyright 2000 Business Wire, Inc.
Business Wire

November 14, 2000, Tuesday

SECTION: ENTERTAINMENTWIRE

DISTRIBUTION: Entertainment Editors

LENGTH: 871 words

HEADLINE: Ford Motor Co. Presents Heroes for the Planet -- A Tribute to **National Geographic**;
Pierce Brosnan Hosts Live Telecast, Jan. 7, 2001

DATELINE: Nov. 14, 2000

BODY:

Historic Television Simulcast Event on the New **National Geographic** Channel and CNBC Pays Homage to the **National Geographic** Society and Its 113-Year Commitment to Conservation

Fox News Channel to Broadcast Same Night

"Heroes for the Planet -- A Tribute to **National Geographic**," a live television event presented by Ford Motor Co. and hosted by film star Pierce Brosnan, will pay tribute to the **National Geographic** Society and its 113-year commitment to global conservation.

The second in a series of televised special events presented by Ford Motor Co., "Heroes for the Planet" will be simulcast on the new **National Geographic** Channel and CNBC on Sunday, Jan. 7, 8-9 p.m. (ET/PT). In addition, Fox News Channel will also air the special that same night at 9 p.m. (ET/PT).

Brosnan, best known internationally for his feature film role as James Bond, Secret Agent 007, will host the event, broadcasting live from Washington D.C.'s historic Warner Theatre. The one-hour show also will include a special musical performance and celebrity guests.

"Ford Motor Co. is proud to be sponsoring this historic simulcast television event honoring **National Geographic**," said James C. Schroer, Ford Motor Co. vice president.

"We're thrilled for the opportunity to pay homage to this great American organization which for more than a century has made an unprecedented contribution in generating worldwide interest in our fascinating planet, reminding us of its fragility and raising awareness of our global responsibilities to its preservation."

"We are enormously honored by the 'Heroes for the Planet' tribute as well as delighted to be simultaneously launching the **National Geographic** Channel here in the United States," stated John M. Fahey, president and chief executive officer of the **National Geographic** Society.

"The extraordinary work of our explorers, scientists and photographers will reach an even larger audience, which is good news for the planet."

National Geographic Society's time-honored commitment to conservation is especially acknowledged by the multi-channel coverage of this live event. "Heroes for the Planet -- A Tribute to **National Geographic**" will be carried live by both the new **National Geographic** Channel and CNBC.

"The simulcast on the **National Geographic** Channel and CNBC truly elevates the importance of the honor," explained the show's executive producer, Robb Weller, of Weller/Grossman Productions.

To further reinforce the significance of this tribute, a delayed broadcast of the special will air one hour later on Fox News Channel. "Two independent news organizations, carrying the same television special is unprecedented," added Weller.

This is the second of Ford Motor Co.'s "Heroes for the Planet" tributes. The first special, broadcast earlier this year on A&E, saluted Time Magazine's honored environmentalists from around the world and was hosted by Oscar-nominee Haley Joel Osment with special guest Charlotte Church, the internationally acclaimed 14-year-old Welsh soprano.

"Heroes for the Planet -- A Tribute to **National Geographic**" honors the remarkable work that the Society has done in its 113-year history. The Society's research, funding of explorations and discovery of lost civilizations and treasures have enriched the lives of its members as well as generations of its magazine's avid readers.

Among the special's highlights will be "24 hours in the life of the **National Geographic** Society." This will include reports from ongoing explorations, including Robert Ballard's current mission in the Black Sea.

The special also will pay tribute to the great **National Geographic** Society Explorers-in-Residence who have been supported by the Society, such as Ballard; Jane Goodall, for her work studying chimpanzees in Tanzania; and Paul Sereno, who recently discovered several previously unknown species of dinosaur.

Also featured will be the late Dian Fossey who dedicated her life to the study of mountain gorillas in Rwanda. There also will be a segment on Hollywood's depiction of the Society over the years.

In addition, a century of the magazine's outstanding photography will be highlighted, as well as a behind-the-scenes look at the extraordinary efforts required to obtain some of the vivid images for which **National Geographic** has become famous.

The special also will take a look into the Society's most current projects, including its affiliation with the Earth Conservation Corps and its efforts to cleanup the Anacostia River that flows between Maryland and Washington D.C. and the reintroduction of the Bald Eagle to our nation's capital.

"Heroes for the Planet -- A Tribute to **National Geographic**" is hosted by Pierce Brosnan, brought to you by Ford Motor Co. and produced by Weller/Grossman Productions. Executive producers for the special are Robb Weller, Gary H. Grossman and Dick Taylor. Steve Lange serves as co-executive producer with Bob Bowker directing.

CONTACT: Showcase Communications

Manfred Westphal, 310/231-7172

Mwestphal@hillandknowlton.com

or

Louis DiCenzo, 310/231-7173

LDiCenzo@hillandknowlton.com

or

Hill and Knowlton

Erin Mills, 202/944-5175

Emills@hillandknowlton.com

URL: <http://www.businesswire.com>

LOAD-DATE: November 15, 2000

BIZ BUZZ, September 26, 2000

Content and programming copyright 2000 Cable News Network Transcribed under license by eMediaMillWorks, Inc. (f/k/a Federal Document Clearing House, Inc.) Formatting copyright 2000 eMediaMillWorks, Inc. (f/k/a Federal Document Clearing House, Inc.) All rights reserved. No quotes from the materials contained herein may be used in any media without attribution to Cable News Network Financial. This transcript may not be copied or resold in any media.
CNNFN

SHOW: BIZ BUZZ 18:00:00 pm ET

September 26, 2000; Tuesday 6:06 pm Eastern Time

Transcript # 00092602FN-I09

TYPE: INTERVIEW

SECTION: Business

LENGTH: 976 words

HEADLINE: National Geographic Channel President, CNNfn

GUESTS: Laureen Ong

BYLINE: Beverly Schuch

BODY:

THIS IS A RUSH TRANSCRIPT. THIS COPY MAY NOT BE IN ITS FINAL FORM AND MAY BE UPDATED.

BEVERLY SCHUCH, CNNfn ANCHOR, BIZ BUZZ: Well, Americans love adventure television, from Mutual of Omaha's "Wild Kingdom" to the "Crocodile Hunter." Now "National Geographic" is capitalizing on the trend with a dedicated television network set to launch in January. The channel will feature shows on exotic travel, adventure diversions and an hour-long broadcast called "National Geographic Today."

And joining me now from Washington with more on the venture is the president of the National Geographic Channel, Laureen Ong.

Welcome to the program, Laureen.

LAUREEN ONG, "NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC" CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much.

SCHUCH: Well, you certainly had a presence on television for years to great reception. It's been said that you were NBC's gift to CNBC, in fact. What made you decide at this point to have a dedicated network?

ONG: The time is right. You know, when you look at the genre programming and the proliferation of reality programming and the appetite that has really been established out there that when you have success on reality programming, we knew the timing was right for us to put out our programming and our specialty.

SCHUCH: Well, you've always had success. Was that what helped prompt it was what happened this year in television?

ONG: Yes, it did. And, you know, you -- all the stars have to align right, and fortunately, the stars are right for us now and for "National Geographic" to come out with a channel.

SCHUCH: All right...

ONG: Now some of the highest rated programming that "National Geographic" has produced out there has been on, you know, CNBC as well as PBS, and we figured, OK, this is the right time.

SCHUCH: And Hallmark is doing much the same thing with their success. Three-hundred-million-dollar cable enterprise. Will that be all funded through "National Geographic" ?

ONG: This is a joint venture partner with "National Geographic" as well as News Corp.

SCHUCH: Is News Corp going to help provide some of the distribution for this?

ONG: News Corp absolutely is helping on the distribution. This is a very -- almost an embarrassment of riches partnership. The combination of "National Geographic," their incredible library, having the access to the assets on the "National Geographic" campus, and you know, coupled with the support that News Corp and Fox gives us on the distribution side, on the ad sales side is a phenomenal combination.

SCHUCH: Well, it's a good team match up. We've had a taste of "National Geographic" on television. Tell us what more we can expect from a dedicated network.

ONG: Well, we are very lucky that we will be able to launch and really showcase a very impressive library of programming from the "National Geographic" inventory. We are also launching our "National Geographic Today" show, which is really a news show that will anchor our prime time lineup at 7:00. And, you know, people say, "Well, why would you want to do a news show? There's proliferation of news already out there." But this is not news the way people know news today. This is going to be really the news of record for our genre of programming.

SCHUCH: I think you certainly have a great brand to lead off with, but people are saying, "Well, how is it going to be different than Discovery?" So how are you setting yourself apart?

ONG: Well, you know, what's very interesting is people -- that is probably the most common question we get asked. And quite frankly, I think the distinctiveness of just being "National Geographic" and being who we are will set us apart. We will be very true to our genre programming. The fact that we've got this news programming, that we will be current and relevant and then headed into our really world-class library of documentary programming in addition to all of the new programming that we are in production currently on will set us aside. And, you know, our key thing is we don't -- when people ask us that question, we really focus on we will just be "National Geographic."

SCHUCH: We are seeing pictures of the studios under construction, I imagine, in Washington, D.C. Are you going to be ready by launch in January?

ONG: We certainly expect to be.

SCHUCH: All right, we know what that involves. I also have to refer to an article in today's "New York Daily News" in New York here about hunting for talent that they took out an entire page "National Geographic" in broadcast and cable. Are you still searching?

ONG: Yes, we are. This is very aggressive, you know. Really, in a matter of eight months to get a channel put together and to launch by January and to get the bodies in place, get all the things in place to get off to a successful launch. But the very good part about being "National Geographic" being right here in Washington, there are so many people that want to be a part of the channel, be a

part of the mission, be a part of what we're about, be a part of programming that actually they can care about. So that part's been very exciting.

SCHUCH: Well, you certainly have your work cut out. Just tell me, when you do launch, what will your distribution be? Do you know?

ONG: We have contracts right now that at launch, we will on the onset come out with 10 million subs and those contracts grow out to 25 million subs over a period of time.

SCHUCH: All right, well, we look forward to the launch. Thanks so much for joining us, Laureen Ong...

ONG: Thank you.

SCHUCH: ... president of National Geographic Network launching in January.

TO ORDER A VIDEO OF THIS TRANSCRIPT, PLEASE CALL 888-CNNFN-01 OR USE OUR SECURE ONLINE ORDER FORM LOCATED AT WWW.FDCH.COM

LOAD-DATE: September 26, 2000

Source: [All Sources](#) : / . . . / : **News Group File, All** 

Terms: **headline (national geographic channel)** ([Edit Search](#))

View: Full

Date/Time: Friday, December 22, 2000 - 9:35 AM EST

[About LEXIS-NEXIS](#) | [Terms and Conditions](#)

[Copyright](#) © 2000 LEXIS-NEXIS Group. All rights reserved.

Multichannel News July 31, 2000

Copyright 2000 Information Access Company,
a Thomson Corporation Company;
ASAP
Copyright 2000 Cahners Publishing Company
Multichannel News

July 31, 2000

SECTION: No. 31, Vol. 21; Pg. 6 ; ISSN: 0276-8593

IAC-ACC-NO: 63915662

LENGTH: 382 words

HEADLINE: Nat Geo U.S. Launch Is Pushed Back; **National Geographic Channel;** Brief Article;
Statistical Data Included

BYLINE: MOSS, LINDA

BODY:

National Geographic Channel's U.S. launch has been delayed until January, and the service is now gearing up its programming department in preparation for the rollout.

NGC officials were downplaying the latest pushing back of the launch date last week, saying that kicking off the channel at the start of next year is more in line with cable-operator needs.

"The initial date was a target, and that was very preliminary" a spokesman said. "And operators often roll out new channels the beginning of the year."

When plans for the launch of a U.S. version of NCG were discussed back in the fall of 1998, the debut date was given as the fourth quarter of 1999. Subsequently, officials said the launch date would be this winter. Now, the date is January 2001.

Last week, NGC said it was creating a programming and production division and it had promoted Andrew Wilk to oversee it as executive vice president. Wilk said he expects to ultimately have a half-dozen people working in his unit.

NGC, which is owned by National Geographic Television and Fox Entertainment Group, expects to have several-hundred hours of original programming in year one, according to Wilk.

However, he could not yet offer details about the network's programming strategy or how it will differ from Discovery Channel.

"Hopefully, it will represent everything National Geographic has represented to its readers and its viewers: the quality and integrity that National Geographic has always stood for," Wilk said. "It's still very much a work in progress. I can't quite tip my hand."

NGC has at its disposal a library of prize-winning documentaries, which have won 105 Emmy Awards and recently secured 13 Emmy nominations, Wilk said. That library represents 20 million feet of film. He added that NGC will also have programming available to it from its partner, Fox.

In addition to documentaries, the library includes ABC movie Stanley's Search for Livingstone, which National Geographic co-produced. NGC will also explore licensing theatricals that it could air--perhaps a film like Titanic, then producing an original documentary to accompany it, Wilk said.

Business Wire May 9, 2000, Tuesday

Copyright 2000 Business Wire, Inc.
Business Wire

May 9, 2000, Tuesday

DISTRIBUTION: Business Editors

LENGTH: 834 words

HEADLINE: **National Geographic Channel** Crests 25 Million U.S. Homes Mark, Adding Carriage Agreement With Adelphia Communications

DATELINE: WASHINGTON, May 9, 2000

BODY:

New Distribution Deal Provides NGC With Prominent Analog-Basic Coverage In Greater Los Angeles Area

Gaining momentum and greater domestic marketplace acceptance prior to its launch later this year, the National Geographic Channel has secured an important carriage agreement in the United States with Adelphia Communications Corp., the seventh-largest cable operator in the United States.

This agreement represents some 3.0 million cable subscribers in a number of the 50 largest U.S. markets, including nearly every Adelphia-served home in greater Los Angeles. Together with the AT&T and DirecTV deals previously announced, the new cable network has secured distribution to 25 million U.S. households, of which 10 million will carry the National Geographic Channel at launch.

Internationally, the channel reaches 52 million homes in 63 countries.

Lindsay A. Gardner, executive vice president of Affiliate Sales and Distribution at Fox Channels Group, which leads distribution and affiliate marketing efforts for the channel, and Jeff Abbas, vice president of Programming for Adelphia Communications, announced the deal today.

At launch later this year, the National Geographic Channel will be delivered to select areas of Southern California served by Adelphia. Within two years, the channel will be available to every Adelphia subscriber in the Los Angeles area. Those communities include Beverly Hills, Brentwood, Santa Monica and Pacific Palisades -- areas populated by large concentrations of advertising, sponsorship and programming decision-makers.

In making the announcement, Abbas stated: "We have high hopes for the National Geographic Channel. The National Geographic brand conveys an instant assurance of quality family programming that is entertaining and informative. We are excited about the upcoming launch of the National Geographic Channel and are proud to be among the first distributors to sign on to carry this exceptional programming service."

Stated Gardner: "We are grateful for Adelphia's significant distribution commitment to National Geographic Channel and analog-basic coverage. Adelphia's full launch in the important Los Angeles area demonstrates the demand and value of a brand that's over 100 years old."

"The Adelphia organization has long been industry leaders, and their strong support for our channel is a welcomed milestone for us," added National Geographic Ventures, President and Chief Executive Officer Rick Allen. "The industry's embrace of the channel more than six months before our U.S. launch is terrific testament to the universal appeal of National Geographic and the unique nature of the programming we will be bringing to the nation."

As previously announced, the National Geographic Channel has secured distribution agreements with AT&T Broadband and Internet Services (BIS), the largest multiple system operators (MSO) in the United States, and DirecTV, the country's largest direct broadcast satellite (DBS) television service.

Adelphia Communications owns, operates and manages cable systems and other related telecommunications businesses and is the seventh- largest cable operator in the United States, owning systems located primarily in suburban areas of large and medium-sized cities within the 50 largest television markets. Through Hyperion Telecommunication Inc., Adelphia owns and operates one of the largest facilities-based Competitive Local Exchange Carriers in the United States. Hyperion designs, constructs, operates and manages state-of-the-art fiber optic networks and facilities. Hyperion manages and operates 22 networks, serving 46 cities. Power Link, the company's high-speed data service provided through cable modems, includes residential, institutional, and business services offerings, and constitutes an alternative to the traditional slower speed data offerings available through Internet Service Providers.

The National Geographic Channel in the United States is a business enterprise of National Geographic Television (NGT) and Fox Entertainment. The U.S. Channel launches this winter. Abroad, those partners are joined by NBC, and the Channel reaches 63 countries and over 52 million households. Building on its reputation for remarkable visual and compelling stories, NGT augments its award-winning documentary production (winner of 105 Emmys and more than 800 industry awards) with new prime-time drama, large-format and feature film programming, as well as international broadcast and video distribution. At present, NGT's programming can be seen in the United States on CNBC and PBS networks as well as through syndication and home video, and internationally through video distribution and broadcast syndication in ~~more than~~ 100 different outlets in some 90 territories. ✱

CONTACT: The National Geographic Channel, Washington, D.C.

Melissa Montefiore, 202/215-0120

Elizabeth Hillman, 202/907-4888

or

Pryor & Associates

Jeff Pryor, 818/261-2527

URL: <http://www.businesswire.com>

LOAD-DATE: May 10, 2000

Source: [All Sources](#) : / . . . / : **News Group File, All** ⓘ

Terms: **headline (national geographic channel)** ([Edit Search](#))

View: Full

Date/Time: Friday, December 22, 2000 - 9:36 AM EST

[About LEXIS-NEXIS](#) | [Terms and Conditions](#)

[Copyright](#) © 2000 LEXIS-NEXIS Group. All rights reserved.

Business Wire May 1, 2000, Monday

Copyright 2000 Business Wire, Inc.
Business Wire

May 1, 2000, Monday

DISTRIBUTION: Business Editors

LENGTH: 771 words

HEADLINE: **National Geographic Channel** Names New U.S. President, Further Details Launch Plans

DATELINE: WASHINGTON, May 1, 2000

BODY:

Television Veteran Laureen Ong to Spearhead Development and Launch of Much-Anticipated Domestic Channel

Laureen Ong, Vice President and General Manager of one of the nation's most influential local television stations, WTTG-TV in Washington, D.C., has joined the National Geographic Channel as its inaugural President of its soon-to-be-launched domestic service, it was announced today by Rick Allen, President and Chief Executive Officer of National Geographic Ventures, and Jeff Shell, President and Chief Executive Officer, Fox Cable Networks.

Ong will immediately assume oversight of the development and launch, as well as all day-to-day operations of the Channel, and will be based at National Geographic Society's Washington, D.C. headquarters, and will report to a Board composed of an equal number of Fox and National Geographic representatives.

"Laureen has the operational expertise and leadership talents to make our U.S. Channel a success from the start," Allen said. "To the unbeatable combination of Fox's strategic assets and the Geographic's unmatched editorial, scientific and educational resources, we now add a terrific industry pro. From its basecamp at the place that has defined exploration and excitement for more than a century comes a unique kind of television: the National Geographic Channel."

Added Shell, "We are incredibly excited about the prospects for the National Geographic Channel in the U.S., and have already received unprecedented support from major distributors. This market reaction in today's competitive environment is no doubt being driven by National Geographic's century-long reputation for delivering breath-taking adventures in print and on film. Laureen's vast operational and television news experience make her the perfect leader to translate the magic of National Geographic onto a 24-hour programming canvas."

Ong's appointment marks only an initial step in building a base of operations for the U.S. National Geographic Channel, a joint venture between National Geographic and Fox. Internationally, the National Geographic Channel is already a growing powerhouse, seen by 52 million subscribers in 63 countries and 11 languages. Domestically, the Channel is set to launch this winter, with some of the nation's most significant cable and satellite providers already on board. Its earliest supporters include the nation's largest multiple system operator, AT&T Broadband and Internet Services, and the nation's largest and most successful digital satellite provider, DirecTV.

The Channel will be provided with a wealth of strategic and synergistic resources from its two partners. Key among them will be access to the National Geographic Television production pipeline and library, and the opportunity to tap into the vast content resources of the National Geographic Society, including the flagship magazine as well as other expanding publishing, maps, and interactive ventures and activities. Fox will provide access to its significant programming operational

Business Wire December 16, 1999, Thursday

Copyright 1999 Business Wire, Inc.
Business Wire

December 16, 1999, Thursday

SECTION: ENTERTAINMENTWIRE

DISTRIBUTION: Business & Entertainment Editors

LENGTH: 641 words

HEADLINE: National Geographic Channel Set for Aggressive U.S. Launch; The Fastest-Growing Channel Abroad Will Launch With 7.5 Million U.S. Subscribers

DATELINE: LOS ANGELES, Dec. 16, 1999

BODY:

The National Geographic Channel today announced agreements with both AT&T Broadband and Internet Services (AT&T BIS), one of the nation's largest multiple system operators (MSOs) and DIRECTV, the nation's largest digital direct broadcast satellite (DBS) television service, under which the award-winning programming service will become part of DIRECTV's Total Choice programming packages at launch and will be rolled out to a majority of AT&T BIS cable subscribers over the next five years.

With the support of DIRECTV and AT&T BIS, National Geographic Channel plans to launch with at least 7.5 million subscribers in the second half of 2000. NGC United States is a joint venture between National Geographic Television, Fox and NBC.

"National Geographic has been extraordinarily successful around the world, and because of tremendous brand awareness, the U.S. launch will duplicate its record international expansion," said Lindsay A. Gardner, executive vice president of affiliate sales and distribution of Fox Channels Group, which is leading the sales and marketing efforts for the channel. "We are grateful for AT&T BIS' and DIRECTV's impressive commitments."

Rick Allen, president of National Geographic Ventures, said: "We are delighted to be able to bring the National Geographic Channel to the United States. Our success in other parts of the world has demonstrated the strength and appeal of our high-quality programming. Television audiences in the U.S. have long loved our award-winning programming, National Geographic Specials' and the Explorer' series, but this is the first time they will have access to all of the wonder of this natural treasure on a dedicated channel."

"National Geographic' magazine has a long history of innovation and success, and for years, viewers have looked forward to the television specials," said Michael Thornton, vice president of programming acquisitions for DIRECTV Inc. "We are very pleased to offer our customers access to National Geographic's quality programming in DIRECTV digital picture and sound."

Madison Bond, executive vice president of programming for AT&T BIS, said: "The National Geographic Channel has proven brand recognition representing more than 100 years of unique storytelling. It's a valuable addition to AT&T BIS' programming offerings and will provide compelling, informative and entertaining programming of the highest quality."

David Zaslav, president of NBC Cable, stated: "Having been involved since the inception of the National Geographic Channel, we've been delighted with its rapid expansion in world markets. It is high time that viewers in the United States have access to this high- quality programming on an ongoing basis. We are pleased that AT&T BIS and DIRECTV have shown the insight and commitment

to their viewers to make this available to them."

The channel has been available to international viewers since its initial launch in Europe and Australia in September 1997. Two years later, it is one of the fastest-growing international cable channels in the world.

About The National Geographic Channel

The National Geographic Channel has seen unprecedented growth in distribution and localization and is now in 50 million homes in 57 countries and in nine languages worldwide. National Geographic Channels, a business enterprise between National Geographic Television, NBC and Fox, continues to expand in strategic markets around the globe. The channel makes available to new audiences worldwide its vast and unparalleled library of documentary and adventure programming, spectacular imagery and compelling storytelling.

CONTACT: National Geographic Channel
Elizabeth Hillman, 202/256-6987 (at the Western Show)
or
Pryor & Associates, Sherman Oaks, Calif.
Jeff Pryor, 818/382-2233

URL: <http://www.businesswire.com>

LOAD-DATE: December 17, 1999

Source: [All Sources](#) : / . . . / : News Group File, All 

Terms: **headline (national geographic channel)** ([Edit Search](#))

View: Full

Date/Time: Friday, December 22, 2000 - 9:37 AM EST

[About LEXIS-NEXIS](#) | [Terms and Conditions](#)

[Copyright © 2000 LEXIS-NEXIS Group.](#) All rights reserved.

Chicago Sun-Times, May 09, 1999

Copyright 1999 Chicago Sun-Times, Inc.
Chicago Sun-Times

May 09, 1999, SUNDAY, Late Sports Final Edition

SECTION: TRAVEL; Pg. 6

LENGTH: 988 words

HEADLINE: **National Geographic:** Where it's going

BYLINE: BY CHRISTOPHER REYNOLDS

BODY:

If you've ever cracked open one of those yellow-bordered magazines, odds are good that you've been taken on a virtual voyage or two by the people at the **National Geographic** Society. But virtual travel isn't enough for them anymore.

After 111 years of magazine publishing and a few decades of documentary filmmaking, **National Geographic** is wading into the business of travel. Working with outside partners, the nonprofit society and its for-profit wing, **National Geographic** Ventures, are selling guidebooks, escorted tours, driving atlases, hikers' maps and a new youth-oriented adventure-travel magazine, **National Geographic** Adventure.

"It's a natural evolution," says the society's president and CEO, John M. Fahey Jr., who cites the organization's original mission "to increase and diffuse geographic knowledge." If this move works, the society will boost revenue (\$ 509 million last year), widen its influence and establish **National Geographic** as an outfit that will not only fuel your daydreams about the wilds of Borneo, but show you the best jungle road, direct you to lodgings there and maybe even help you rub on some insect repellent.

For consumers, the proliferation of the society's little yellow logo means a chance to draw more deeply from a remarkable information source. It also means that the society's new competitors, from mapmakers to tour operators, will likely be looking again at their own products and perhaps upgrading them. (This has already begun: After **National Geographic** came out in late 1997 with its first U.S. road atlas that also included a detailed topographic relief, rival Rand McNally introduced its own deluxe topographic road atlas.)

But all this diversification does make some admirers (and employees) of **National Geographic** nervous. Is the outfit making money in order to sell geography or selling geography in order to make money? Can all these partnerships keep up the society's reputation for top-notch work?

Some readers may be surprised to find that much of the advice in the **National Geographic** Trip Planner Platinum 2000 CD-ROM is actually drawn from a Frommer's guidebook series. Other readers, dipping into the new **National Geographic** Adventure magazine, may be perplexed by the events calendar on page 67, which is folded inside a four-page Jeep advertisement and, with its ultra-hip, hard-to-read typography, can easily be mistaken for an ad itself. This is not the kind of thing found in the beloved magazine that staffers call "Old Yeller."

Insiders say the drive to push **National Geographic** into new arenas began with the 1996 arrival of Reg Murphy, a veteran newspaper editor, as the organization's president. Murphy in turn consulted with society Chairman Gilbert M. Grosvenor in choosing Fahey, a former top editor at Time-Life Books, as his own successor.

"We're trying to reach as many people as we possibly can," says Fahey. The bottom line, whether the product is a book, a CD-ROM or a magazine, Fahey adds, is "to make sure the standard of what we offer is better than anybody else's out there."

Among the travel-related products bearing that **National Geographic** logo these days:

Guidebooks: The society has dipped its toe into the guidebook pond before, publishing a handful of U.S. driving guides and a few paperbacks on U.S. national parks and historic places. Now, drawing on the editing and design of England-based Automobile Association Developments Ltd., the society is taking on the world. Beginning this month with six of the planet's most popular destinations (France, Britain, Canada, Paris, London and New York), the **National Geographic** Traveler paperback guidebook series is rich with photography, maps and historical context, with brief listings of hotels and restaurants. Plans call for books on 10 new destinations each year for the next three years. Prices run from \$ 22.95 to \$ 27.95.

Tours: **National Geographic's** first foray into tour operating was the **National Geographic** on Tour program, born in the early 1990s. Now that effort has been replaced by the more ambitious **National Geographic** Expeditions, telephone (888) 966-8687, which aims to offer more trips to a wider variety of destinations (with closer ties to recent magazine stories), and with a greater emphasis on Geographic writers, photographers and other experts who will join tour groups. This month, a mailing will go to hundreds of thousands of society members announcing the new program. Its catalog includes 13 trips between Sept. 1 and February 2000. Most tours (to be operated by Academic Travel Abroad and other veteran tour companies) will run eight to 21 days and cost \$ 2,400 to \$ 7,300. (There is also a millennium splurge: a 21-day Antarctica voyage, priced at \$ 11,500 to \$ 16,000.)

Road atlases and hiking maps: In 1997 the society published its first road atlas, drawing on a pact with Geosystems Global Corp., the company behind the popular Internet site Mapquest. Now in its second edition, the atlas has been a big sales success. But the society's for-profit arm is aiming at pedestrians, too. Last year, **National Geographic** Ventures bought Trails Illustrated, publisher of national park maps. That move marked Geographic's first outright acquisition of another company. Now the Trails Illustrated maps bear both logos, and 15 national park maps are on sale in a CD-ROM form that lets hikers customize routes.

Magazines: **National Geographic** Adventure, the fourth magazine introduced in the group's history, is far less scholarly than the society's flagship magazine, with profiles of rock climbers, rundowns on outdoorsy destinations and consumer reviews of outdoor gear. Its top editor, John Rasmus, was a founding editor of Outside and Men's Journal.

Meanwhile, **National Geographic** Traveler, a 15-year-old magazine with about 715,000 circulation, was redesigned in January to attract younger readers and cover more foreign destinations.

GRAPHIC: Los Angeles Times

LOAD-DATE: May 10, 1999

Source: [All Sources](#) : / . . . / : News Group File, All 

Terms: **headline (national geographic) and atl 20 (national geographic) and date geq (12/22/1995)** ([Edit Search](#))

View: Full

Date/Time: Friday, December 22, 2000 - 9:51 AM EST

ENVIRONMENT / CONSERVATION QUOTES

Biblical

You shall not pollute the land wherein you are.

--Numbers 35:33

Hurt not the earth; neither the sea, nor the trees.

--Revelation 7:3

The tree of the field is man's life.

--Deuteronomy 20:19

The earth is full of the Lord's riches.

--Psalms 104:24

The profit of the earth is for all, (even the king himself is served by the field).

--Ecclesiastes 5:9

Yonder is the sea, great and wide, which teems with things innumerable, living things both great and small.

--Psalms 104:25

Teddy Roosevelt

The conservation of our natural resources and their proper use constitute the fundamental problem which underlies almost every other problem of our National life.

--December 3, 1907

Leave it as it is. You cannot improve on it. The ages have been at work on it, and man can only mar it. What you can do is keep it for your children and your children's children.

--On the Grand Canyon

Others

We are tired, never shaken, over-civilized people who are finding Nature is a necessity, that wilderness is freedom, that parks are fountains of life.

--John Muir

It is our task in our time and in our generation, to hand down undiminished to those who come after us, as was handed down to us by those who went before, the natural wealth and beauty which is ours.

--John F. Kennedy

Public Papers of the Presidents

Public Papers of the Presidents

September 24, 2000

CITE: 36 Weekly Comp. Pres. Doc. 2197**LENGTH:** 2061 words**HEADLINE:** Remarks to the California League of **Conservation** Voters in Bel Air, California**BODY:**

Well, Ruth has given me a lot of gifts over the years, mostly tapes of great old rock-and-roll songs. [Laughter] But I'm very grateful for this.

And I want to thank you, Ruthie, and Fran Diamond and Wendy James. I thank Rampa Hormel and Hilda Solis for their leadership. I really want to thank Carole and Phil for letting us come to their home on this beautiful, beautiful day and share it.

I thank all the officials that are here, those who have been introduced. But I want to say again to all these congressional candidates -- Michael Case, Susan Davis, Gerrie Schipske -- of course, Hilda -- and my long-time friend Jane Harman. Thank you for running for the Congress, to give it back to the American people and to give our natural heritage back to the future.

I want to thank you for this award but, more importantly, for your leadership on environmental and resource issues. I basically have always thought Presidents shouldn't get awards. I thought that the job was reward enough. But you know, as I get ready to move out -- [laughter] -- this will look really wonderful in my home. So I do thank you. [Laughter]

The work we have done on **conservation** is among the things I'm most proud of as President. Ninety-four years ago today -- exactly today -- Theodore Roosevelt designated America's very first national monument, Devil's Tower, in Wyoming. He set us on a path of **conservation** a century ago that we are working to make stronger.

For more than 7 years now, Al Gore and I have fought to do that, most of the time with a Congress that was very hostile to our environmental objectives. We believed always that we could grow the economy and improve the environment. And we believed, in a larger sense, that if we didn't deal with the big challenges of climate change and other pollutions, that economic growth would turn in on itself, sooner or later anyway.

So over the last 8 years, we've cleaned up 3 times as many toxic waste dumps from neighborhoods as the two previous administrations did in 12. We've taken the most dramatic steps to improve the quality of air in a generation. We've also improved the quality of our water and our drinking water with major new legislation. We made record investments in science and technology designed to reduce the threat of global warming.

You heard Ruth say some of the things we have done in California. We've had the national monuments designed to preserve the redwood forest, the coastal lands and waters. We had a big conference on preserving the oceans on the Monterey Peninsula a couple of years ago. We've begun to do some significant things to try to recover the quality of the oceans, particularly those that are near us.

There is a dead spot in the Gulf of Mexico the size of the State of New Jersey today because of pollution and runoff that will have significant adverse impacts on marine life over the long run if we don't do something to deal with it.

I was honored to create the national preserve in the Mojave Desert and to expand the Pinnacle Monuments, as Ruth said. We've done this from the Grand Canyon to Yellowstone to the Florida Everglades. And we have already set aside over 40 million roadless acres.

Today we took another big step by protecting almost 800 acres of the southern gateway to Big Sur. I'll never forget the first time I saw it 30 years ago. It's a coastline we value not just for its breathtaking views but as a home for endangered species like the steelhead trout and Smith's blue butterfly. And thanks to funds provided by the lands legacy initiative the Vice President and I have worked for, for the last several years, we are able to make this gift to the future.

I want the National Government and every community in our country to be able to have the resources to make gifts like this well into the future. That's why I have asked Congress to provide permanent funding for our open spaces and pass the "**Conservation** Reinvestment Act," CRA, that would significantly boost our lands legacy initiative.

The House passed it with over 300 votes, and now we are trying to get it through the Senate. If any of you can help us, I'd really appreciate it. [Laughter]

I want to mention just a couple of other things, too. First, one more time, even in the teeth of an election, even in the face of evidence that the overwhelming majority of the American people support a strong environmental policy, Congress is larding up these bills, these appropriation bills, with anti-environmental riders. And the theory is that if you can just put enough amendments on enough bills, that eventually all us Democrats will get veto fatigue, and it'll be 3 hours and 15 minutes before the polls open, and everybody will want to go home to vote, at least, if not to campaign, and so they'll be able to pass their anti-environmental agenda.

Now, I say that, first, to ask the Congress, if they want to go home and campaign, to take the anti-environmental riders off the bills, because I've got nowhere to go, and I'm not running for anything. [Laughter] And I'd be happy to stay there until election day.

But secondly, I want to emphasize how important these congressional races are, every House seat and every Senate seat -- although, at least to me, some Senate seats are more important than others. [Laughter]

Let me just tell you what the lives of Members of Congress are like. Okay. It's late September. There's an election in early November. People want to go home. They want to be with their constituents. The party that's in the majority gets to decide what is voted on in the committees, gets to have the votes to add these anti-environmental riders, in this case. And they hope that at some point you just keep putting these bills out and there's defense bill. Do you want to be against defense 2 weeks before the election? There is an education bill that might have anti-environmental riders -- do you want to be anti-education? -- and a health bill. There may even be a good bill for the EPA and a decent budget, but it's all larded up with this stuff. Do you want to be in the position of voting for this? Now, if we had about 12 more Members of Congress who were proenvironment and we could organize the committees, this would not happen. This is a big, big, big deal.

Let me just make two other points. You know, some people in the other party have continued to try to distort some of the things that the Vice President said in his book, "Earth in the Balance." But even the oil companies now admit that all those years ago he was right and they were wrong about climate change.

The 1990's were the warmest decade in a thousand years, we now know. And we know that an extraordinary amount of the warming of the climate is due to human activity, and we know that, if we don't do something about it, sometime in the next three to five decades it will substantially change the pattern of life here in our own country. The sugarcane fields in Louisiana, the Everglades in Florida could flood; agricultural production could be forced upward in America; and whole massive stretches of farmlands could be dramatically less productive; and all of the other things that you know very well could happen.

I've already seen the change in the bio-diversity on the Pacific Coast. When I was on the Monterey Peninsula, I saw some small, microscopic, almost, animal life in the bay, that just 40 years ago was 20 miles south at its northernmost point. So I'm seeing all this happen. And I just want to say that I'm working hard to deal with the present energy problem. But the real issue is, how are we going to grow the economy and save the environment over the long run?

Today, there are technologies available off the shelf that would dramatically boost productivity in America and increase output per energy input. If you don't believe me, go look at that low-income housing project out in the Inland Empire in San Bernadino, where they cut power use by more than 50 percent by simple, off-the-shelf technologies. I have been trying for 3 years to get Congress to give tax credits to accelerate research and development into **conservation** technologies and alternative fuels and to increase investment in that kind of research and development and to give tax credits to consumers and to business to buy **conservation** technologies and employ alternative fuels.

Now, that's another reason you need more people in the Congress, because the President, if his party sticks with him, even if they're in the minority, can stop bad things from happening. Although as I just explained, it gets tougher as you get closer to the election. But if you want good things to happen and you believe, as I do, that there's a world of environmentally responsible potential growth out there, by investing in and betting on the fact that we can reverse the tide of climate change without all going back to the Stone Age to live, the way the other side talks -- now, you've got a big choice here.

And every House seat and every Senate seat and this White House matters. Because, unlike some areas -- I've got to give it to the other side, they've been quite forthright here, and I appreciate it. They've been very, very honest in saying, "I disagree with Bill Clinton. I disagree with Al Gore. Vote for us. We will repeal the 43 million roadless acres in the national forests. Vote for us. We will relax the air standards. They're too hard, and they're going to slow the economy down too much. Vote for us. We will reexamine all these national monuments."

And I could give you lots of other examples. So it's not like we don't know what the deal is here. And that's good, because that's why you have elections, so people can make choices.

But I want to say to you, it's been a great honor for me to work in the environmental area. I'm glad to know that we've had the strongest economy in history with cleaner air, cleaner water, safer food, and more land set aside than anybody since the Roosevelts. I'm proud of that.

But the huge question out there, hanging out there, is whether or not we will create out of this information technology revolution a post-industrial form of energy use, even for manufacturing, if we will unlock the last chemical step keeping us from using biofuels in an efficient way.

The scientists that work for the Department of Agriculture say, you know, you can't really take ethanol too seriously now because it takes 7 gallons of gasoline to make 8 gallons of ethanol. But they are a short step away from a chemical advance that would enable us to make 8 gallons of ethanol from 1 gallon of gasoline. Think about it. That would be the equivalent of 500 gallons of gasoline -- 500 miles to the gallon in modern cars. We're so close. And you have to decide.

We need people in the White House and in the Congress that understand the future and are committed to making sure that we get out of denial here, or as my daughter's generation says, it's not just a river in Egypt. [Laughter]

And this will not be a headline issue here. Most people say this election is about the Medicare drug issue or the Patients' Bill of Rights or whether the Republican nominee's tax cut plan is too big, especially when you compare it with privatizing Social Security. You add them up, and we're back in deficits. All those things are real important.

But I'm telling you, 50 years from now, our generation will be judged on whether we met the challenge of climate change. And it is not necessary for us to go in a hut and quit making a living to do it. The technologies are there, are right on the verge of there. We can increase productivity. We can grow this economy, and we can do it. You've got to decide. Help them get elected, and help Al Gore and Joe Lieberman.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:45 p.m. at a private residence. In his remarks, he referred to Ruth Hunter, president, California League of **Conservation** Voters; Fran Diamond, member, Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board; Wendy James, president, Environmental Media Association; Rampa Hormel, honorary event chair; State Senator Hilda Solis; event hosts Carole King and Phil Alden Robinson; and Republican Presidential candidate Gov. George W. Bush.

LOAD-DATE: November 6, 2000

Source: [All Sources](#) : / . . . / : **Public Papers of the Presidents** 

Terms: **headline (remarks) and atl 5(conservation)** ([Edit Search](#))

View: Full

Date/Time: Thursday, December 21, 2000 - 5:12 PM EST

[About LEXIS-NEXIS](#) | [Terms and Conditions](#)

[Copyright](#) © 2000 LEXIS-NEXIS Group. All rights reserved.

Public Papers of the Presidents

Public Papers of the Presidents

September 21, 2000

CITE: 36 Weekly Comp. Pres. Doc. 2150**LENGTH:** 1170 words**HEADLINE:** Remarks on Departure for Flint, Michigan**BODY:***"Conservation and Reinvestment Act"*

Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. I would like to begin by thanking this distinguished group of Americans who have joined me, and I want to introduce them all. To my immediate left, looking over my shoulder here is Mayor Brent Coles of Boise, Idaho; Senator Gaylord Nelson, the founder of Earth Day; and next to him, his small name-sake, Major League Baseball legend Gaylord Perry. Henry Diamond is here, who is a partner in the law firm of Beveridge and Diamond, and a distinguished environmentalist, heading the largest environmental law firm in the Nation; Roger Schlickeisen, the president of Defenders of Wildlife, over my right shoulder here. Jack Hanna is here, the director emeritus of the Columbus Zoo; Frank Beamer, the head coach of the Virginia Tech football team -- as he said, "Last year number two; and rising this year." -- [laughter] -- Jimmie Lee Solomon, the senior vice president of baseball operations for Major League Baseball; Dr. Michael Hirshfield, the vice president at the research protection programs of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation; David Waller, the director of wildlife resources division of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, who told me to say something good about wildlife today. I often feel that we're in the presence of it here in Washington. [Laughter] And I appreciate his efforts to preserve it. And the lady to my left is Sue Maturkanich, who is a teacher from Grand Rapids, Michigan. I wanted to thank her for being here and for her interest in the intersection of education and the environment for our children.

These **conservation** and community leaders have come here from all over America to work for the protection of our open spaces and our most precious lands, to ask Congress to provide permanent funding for them with Federal funds dedicated to supporting State and local communities.

Under the leadership of Chairman Don Young and Congressman George Miller, the House recently cast an overwhelming bipartisan vote to provide permanent funding for America's open spaces from the resources the Federal Government gets from Federal offshore oil leases. There is significant support in the Senate for this legislation. And we are here today to ask the Senate leadership to work with Senators Frank Murkowski and Jeff Bingaman, again on a bipartisan basis, to pass the **"Conservation and Reinvestment Act"** known as CARA.

When I was growing up in Arkansas, I had such easy access to parks and woods and mountains and rivers and lakes that I suppose I took them for granted a little bit. But we know that we can no longer take our access to our natural resources and our wildlife for granted. In too many communities, our green spaces and our open spaces continue to disappear.

For too many of our young people and their families, it's becoming harder and harder to protect what we have left, the meadows and seashores, the lands farmers harvest, the streams where families fish. With more and more people visiting our national parks and forests, we also have to do more to protect and preserve these treasures. That's why Gaylord Perry is here today. He believes that all our children should have a place to play Little League ball. That's why Sue Maturkanich is here today, all the way from Michigan, to remind the Congress how essential it is for children to have a good place to play.

For 7 1/2 years now, Vice President Gore and I have fought for these causes, to protect our natural resources, to provide communities with resources they need to preserve green and open spaces. Working with Congress, again on a bipartisan basis, we protected Yellowstone from the threat of mining, preserved the Baca Ranch in New Mexico, saved age-old California redwoods, set aside huge stretches of the Mojave Desert for the national park system, and launched the most ambitious environmental restoration effort ever in the magnificent Florida Everglades. But we also provided significant new resources to help States and communities preserve farms, urban parks, and other precious open spaces.

The mayor of Boise is here, as I said earlier. We worked with him to give him the funds to develop a 55-acre recreation complex so that children and parents have a place to enjoy the wonders of nature close to home.

Here in Washington, DC, we helped the city rebuild Girard Street Park, the only open space in an entire urban neighborhood, a park that will give children a place to play in safety and the community a place to call their own.

We believe every community should have such places so that neighborhood parks and baseball fields are as common as cell phones and video games. That's why CARA is so important and why Congress must pass it now before it adjourns.

I want to make it clear: The virtue of CARA is one of the things which makes it controversial in the ordinary course of congressional operations. It would set aside money that we have coming in every year, automatically, for these communities for these purposes, so that they would always know that there was a stream of money there to protect the future for our children.

I also hope Congress, before it leaves, will provide adequate resources for us to continue to protect our air and water and ensure permanent funding for land **conservation**. And I hope they will send me budget bills free of anti-environmental riders. Once again, too many of these bills are being watered down and polluted with riders aimed at weakening public health protections, blocking commonsense efforts to combat climate change, and surrendering public lands to private interests.

In the last 24 hours, Congress has added some more of these riders. I vetoed bills before because they contained them, and if I have to, I'll do it again. But I ask Congress to drop them so we can get on with the people's business, and they can go back home and talk to the voters.

A century ago President Theodore Roosevelt set our Nation on the path of **conservation**. He reminded us, and I quote, "Our responsibilities to the coming millions is like that of parents to children. In wasting our resources, we are wronging our descendants."

Since then, we've answered President Roosevelt's call to **conservation**. And time after time, over the entire length of the 20th century, we put the restoration and protection of the environment ahead of partisan conflict.

In the weeks ahead, we should continue to do this. We have a unique and profoundly important effort to give people at the grass-roots level in America a permanent source of funding to protect our natural resources.

A chance like this comes along once in a great while. That's why there were over 300 votes for this bill in the House. And there ought to be 100 votes for it in the Senate, and I hope we can get it done, and these folks, by coming here today, have made it more likely.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10 a.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House.

LOAD-DATE: November 1, 2000

Public Papers of the Presidents

Public Papers of the Presidents

July 2, 1999

CITE: 35 Weekly Comp. Pres. Doc. 1266**LENGTH:** 1333 words**HEADLINE:** Remarks on Steps To Remove the American Bald Eagle From the Endangered Species List**BODY:**

Thank you very much. I have to tell you I was very moved by that. Let's give him another hand. And all these young people, I thank them. [Applause]

Thank you, Levar. Thank you, members of the Earth **Conservation** Corps. I'd like to thank all the adults and sponsors who are here with them today, and one strong supporter of this program that is not here, my good friend Ethel Kennedy. I thank her and all of you for what you have done to give these young people a chance to contribute to the **conservation** of their community and to earn some money to go on with their education.

I'd like to thank Secretary Babbitt for his outstanding leadership in this regard. He has been a wonderful, wonderful steward of our Nation's fish and wildlife and natural resources over these last 6 1/2 years, and I'm grateful to him.

I'd like to thank George Frampton, who works on these issues for us here in the White House; Jody Millar, the recovery coordinator for the Fish and Wildlife Service. I'd like to recognize in her absence Jamie Clark, the Director of the Fish and Wildlife Service, who I believe is absent because she's about to have a baby, which is a good way to support species preservation. [Laughter]

I'd like to thank Al Cecere and the great eagle, Challenger, who are here. They look very good today together, and I thank them for coming.

This is a special day for us to be having this announcement, because we're about to enter the weekend to commemorate the very last Independence Day of this century.

Yesterday Hillary and I joined a number of people at our National Archives to celebrate this Fourth of July with a renewed effort to give a special gift to America in the new millennium -- the preservation of the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, and the Bill of Rights.

Today we honor the living symbol of our democracy, the American bald eagle. It was, in fact, on July 4th, 1776, the very day the Declaration of Independence was signed, that our Founders first considered the question of a fitting emblem for our Nation. Believe it or not, Ben Franklin wanted our national symbol to be a turkey. The press would be having a field day with that to the present day, wouldn't they? [Laughter]

Fortunately, in this case, Mr. Franklin, who had a lot of good ideas, had this referred to committee. [Laughter] Three committees, in fact, and finally, 6 years later, the Continental Congress approved a design for the Great Seal of the United States, a proud bald eagle -- wings stretched wide, an olive branch in one claw, 13 arrows in the other. A "free spirit," said Thomas Jefferson, "high-soaring and courageous."

Yet, years later, even as its likeness was known world over and the very symbol of our might and our independence, here in America, the eagle struggled barely to survive. At our Nation's founding, as many as half a million bald eagles soared the skies in North America. Two hundred years later only a

few hundred breeding pairs remained in the lower 48 States. Our majestic eagle was slipping toward extinction. You just heard Levar's story about Washington, DC, and the Anacostia.

But the American people decided to do something about it. First, we banned the pesticide DDT which had poisoned the eagles' fragile eggs. The naysayers said if we did so, it would wreck the economy. And, as we had seen before then, and time and again since, the people who say improving the environment will wreck the economy are wrong. We've done reasonably well with the economy while we brought the bald eagle back.

But banning DDT was only the first step. People all across our Nation banded together to guard nest sites; to nurse injured birds, like our friend Challenger, here, back to health; and like Levar and all of his young colleagues who are here with us today, to reintroduce eagles in places where they had long ago disappeared. Most important of all, we made the Endangered Species Act the law of the land, declaring that extinction is not an option -- not for the eagle, not for other creatures put here by God.

Thanks to these efforts, the bald eagle is now back from the brink, thriving in virtually every State of the Union. When I became President, I'm proud to say, my State had the second largest number of bald eagles in the country. But now they are everywhere, and we are very, very happy about it.

Today I am pleased to announce that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is taking the first step to remove the American bald eagle from the endangered species list. It's hard to think of a better way to celebrate the birth of a nation than to celebrate the rebirth of our national symbol.

The return of the bald eagle is a fitting cap to a century of environmental stewardship, charted for us in the beginning by one of our greatest conservationists, President Theodore Roosevelt. I am proud of what we have tried to do to fulfill his legacy -- from the Yellowstone to California's ancient redwoods to the Mojave Desert to the spectacular red rock canyons of Utah. And just yesterday Vice President Gore announced the largest environmental restoration effort in history, our plan to save the precious Florida Everglades.

In all these efforts we honor Teddy Roosevelt's ideal of leaving our Nation even a better land for our descendants than it is for us. And now, on the threshold of a new century, at a moment of unparalleled prosperity, we have an historic opportunity to deepen our commitment to **conservation** and to make it permanent.

The balanced budget I proposed for the coming year includes \$ 1 billion for a lands legacy initiative, the largest annual investment ever proposed for the protection of America's lands. This initiative would expand our efforts to preserve critical wildlife habitat and other national treasures. It would provide new assistance to communities to protect farms, city parks, and other local green spaces.

In addition, I have also proposed guaranteed funding of \$ 1 billion a year every year to sustain these efforts into the new century. I was disappointed that earlier this week committees in both the House and the Senate voted to cut deeply into this request of the coming year, including funds to help to keep other wildlife from becoming endangered in the first place. All through our century we have found ways to pull together across party lines to stand up for the environment, for wildlife, for our natural heritage. I hope we can do that again.

It took all Americans to save the bald eagle -- people in places where you would expect the bald eagle, and people in places where we had forgotten the bald eagle ever existed, like Washington, DC. Now that we have the bald eagle back, let's get the spirit behind the bald eagle back, and put America back on a bipartisan American course of **conservation** of our natural resources.

You know, when Hillary talked to me about starting this millennium project and devoting ourselves this year and next year to giving gifts to the country for the new millennium, she came up with this phrase, "honor the past and imagine the future." More than any other area, the environment and dealing with our natural resources gives us a chance to do both things at the same time. By saving

the bald eagle and bringing it back home to the Nation's Capital, these young people have honored our past. They have also imagined a future in which we give all of our children a chance to get a good education and to have a good income and a thriving economy where we no longer destroy our natural resources, but instead, build them up. It is the past, and it must be the future.

Thank you very, very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:22 a.m. on the South Lawn at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Levar Simms, member, Eagle Corps, a program of the Earth **Conservation** Corps; and Al Louis Cecere, founder and president, National Foundation to Protect America's Eagles, who handled the eagle.

LOAD-DATE: August 3, 1999

Source: [All Sources](#) : / . . . / : **Public Papers of the Presidents** ⓘ

Terms: **headline (remarks) and atl 5(conservation)** ([Edit Search](#))

View: Full

Date/Time: Thursday, December 21, 2000 - 5:13 PM EST

[About LEXIS-NEXIS](#) | [Terms and Conditions](#)

[Copyright](#) © 2000 LEXIS-NEXIS Group. All rights reserved.

Public Papers of the Presidents

Public Papers of the Presidents

May 26, 2000

CITE: 36 Weekly Comp. Pres. Doc. 1228**LENGTH:** 1866 words**HEADLINE:** Remarks Announcing the Coral Reef and Marine Protected Areas Initiatives at Assateague Island, Maryland**BODY:**

Thank you very much. Well, first, I want to thank all of our previous speakers. As so often happens when I get up to speak, what needs to be said has already been said.

Thank you, Carolyn Cummins, for your kind words and for your years and years of leadership, for Assateague Island and for these beaches. I want to thank the park superintendent, Marc Koenings. This is his last week here, because he has just gotten a new assignment at the Gateway National Recreation Area in New York Harbor, a place I've gotten a little more interested in, in the last few months. *[Laughter]* So he's got a very good assignment, and I wish him well.

I want to thank Sylvia Earle, the explorer-in-residence at National Geographic and, in a way, an explorer in residence for the American citizens, as you just heard. I want to thank also the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administrator Jim Baker and Deputy Secretary of the Interior David Haynes, who are here.

And I'd also like to recognize the elected officials, particularly the Maryland delegation from the United States Congress, who have been just terrific on these environmental issues: Senator Barbara Mikulski. Thank you, Senator. She came dressed to spend the day here. I hope she does. *[Laughter]* I want to thank Senator Paul Sarbanes for being here. When I came up, he said, "You know, this is my part of Maryland. And my mother is here, and she is celebrating her 92d birthday today." So welcome to Mrs. Sarbanes, we're glad to see you. Thank you. Give her a hand. That's great. *[Applause]* She's also got the coolest sunglasses of anybody here, I might add. *[Laughter]*

I'd like to thank Representatives Wayne Gilchrest, to my left, and Ben Cardin to my right for being here. And I'd like to recognize a guest from all the way across the country, Representative Sam Farr from northern California. He represents the district where Monterey Bay is, where we had our oceans conference 2 years ago, and he's a great friend of the **environment**. Thank you, Sam Farr, for being here.

I'd also like to thank the mayors, the council members, the State legislators who met me here. And I'd like to recognize Carl Zimmerman, the chief of research management of the Assateague National Island Seashore, for your work. Thank you all for being here.

Well, I came down here today to get ahead of the Memorial Day rush. *[Laughter]* And I didn't want all of you who wanted to sit here to be lost in the stampede of fun-seekers. But I thank you for coming. We all know that this weekend marks the opening of the summer beach season, and by the millions, Americans will flock to our coastlines. Beachlines and coastlines are now our number one tourist destination.

Our oceans, however, are far more than a playground. They have a central effect on the weather, on our climate system. Through fishing, tourism, and other industries, ocean resources -- listen to this -- support one out of every six jobs in the United States of America. Coral reefs and coastal waters are a storehouse of biodiversity. Think about what children here -- and we have some children here from Bennett Middle School I met on the way down. And just think about what they see and learn

about the timeless movement of the dunes, about the complex life of a coastal marsh -- horseshoe crabs, living fossils whose blood provides us a vital antibacterial agent. And I learned today that 5,000 years ago, this island was several miles out in the ocean, brought back closer to shore by the rising of the sea level, something which is okay in small doses but could be very troubling for us if we don't deal with the problem of climate change, global warming, the melting of the icecaps, and the alarming level at which ocean levels could rise.

Even though they cover -- yes, you can clap for that. *[Applause]* You have to forgive me. When I give these kinds of talks, I veer off the script a little bit. Oceans cover more than 70 percent of the Earth's surface. They are immensely powerful, as anybody who has ever been caught in an undertow can tell you. But they are also very, very fragile. Poisonous runoff from the Mississippi River alone has created a dead zone in the Gulf of Mexico that is as large as the State of New Jersey.

Here in Maryland, runoff threatens fish and crabs in the Chesapeake Bay. Globally, already, people have destroyed 10 percent of the world's coral reefs. Another 20 percent are in grave peril.

I saw the changes when I went snorkeling 5 years ago off the Great Barrier Reefs in Australia. And I read just last week, of the challenges now presented, the second largest barrier reefs in the world, off the coast of Belize. Global warming, as I said, is helping to raise the ocean temperatures to record highs, changing weather patterns, killing coral reefs, driving species from their habitat.

When I was with Sam Farr 2 years ago in Monterey Bay, I went out into the bay with some young researchers from the Stanford center that's there. And they pointed out some small ocean organisms that just 50 years ago were 20 miles to the south. Minuscule organisms that move that far in 50 years.

Over the last 7 years, we've tried to change as much of this as we could, protecting millions of acres of forests and open space, showing we can clean up our **environment** and grow the economy at the same time. But we need to do more with our seas and our coasts. The old idea that we can only grow by putting more pollution into our lakes and rivers and oceans must finally be put to rest. Indeed, it is now clear that we can grow our economy faster over the long run by improving our **environment**, and it's really not enough for us just to try to keep it as it is. We have to do better.

I want to say, on behalf of Vice President Gore, as well as myself, that we are grateful for the opportunities we've had to do this work, grateful for the chance that we had to host the Oceans Conference in Monterey in 1998, and Hillary and Tipper were there, too. We had a wonderful day. Last year, the Vice President issued our one-year update, and we're going to try to put out a report every year. I hope that in successive years Presidents will do the same.

As has been said, we have quadrupled funding for national marine sanctuaries. We have new funding to rebuild our threatened fisheries. We extended a moratorium on offshore oil leases for oil and gas drilling through 2012. We've been an international leader in efforts to protect whales and other endangered species. But we have to do more.

Today I want to announce two important initiatives that I believe will help to ensure that our oceans are places of delight and learning for generations to come. First, I am signing an Executive order to create a national system to preserve our coasts, reefs, underwater forests, and other treasures, directing the Commerce and Interior Departments to work together to create a network of marine protected areas, encompassing pristine beaches, mysterious deep-water trenches, and every kind of marine habitat. This Executive order directs NOAA to develop a single framework to manage our national network wisely.

We intend to establish ecological reserves in the most fragile areas to keep them off-limits to fishing, drilling, and other damaging uses. I'm also directing the EPA to strengthen water quality standards all along our coasts and provide stronger protections for the most vulnerable ocean waters, to reduce pollution of beaches, coasts, and oceans.

Second, I'm announcing today our commitment to permanently protect coral reefs of the northwest Hawaiian Islands. If you've ever been there, you know why we should. These eight islands are not, all of them, so well-known, but they stretch over 1,200 miles. They shelter more than 60 percent of America's coral reefs. They're home to plants and animals found nowhere else on Earth and to highly endangered species, including leatherback turtles and monk seals.

I'm directing the Departments of Interior and Commerce to develop in the next 90 days a comprehensive plan to protect the reefs, working with State and regional authorities and making sure the people of Hawaii also have a voice at the table. It is in our national interest to do this, and it should not be a partisan issue. On more than one occasion, Representative Gilchrest has supported our environmental initiatives, and I thank you, sir, for that. It should not be a Republican or a Democratic issue.

I sent a budget this year to the Congress to provide significant new resources to fight climate change and air and water pollution. My lands legacy initiative would provide record funding to protect our lands and coasts. I think the leadership in Congress is swimming against the tide, because they've proposed a budget that would cut funding for critical environmental priorities. A House committee has slashed lands legacy by 75 percent. And once again, the majority is loading up the budget bills with anti-environmental riders that would cripple the new national monuments I created earlier this year, surrender our public lands to private interests, and undermine our efforts to protect water resources and combat global warming.

Already in this year of rather hot election rhetoric -- you may have noticed there's an election this year -- *[laughter]* -- there have been commitments to roll back the efforts I have taken to create 43 million roadless acres in our national forests. We need to have a clear, national, bipartisan consensus at the grassroots level, that we don't need these riders, and we do need a national commitment to the **environment**.

For thousands of years, oceans and beaches have stirred the human imagination. Today, ocean depths offer hopes for medicine and science. They still stir the curious child in all of us. I said in my State of the Union Address that I thought in the next few years, we would not only decode the human genome and find cures for various kinds of cancer, Parkinson's, Alzheimer's, diabetes; we would also find out what's in the black holes in the universe. But we are also going to find out what's in the darkest depths of our oceans, and what we find out may save hundreds of thousands of people.

Forty-five years ago Rachel Carson wrote from her Maryland home that the sea "keeps alive the sense of continuing creation and of the relentless drive of life . . . in the sea nothing lives to itself . . . the present is linked with past and future, and each living thing with all that surrounds it." If we could all think that about each other and our community -- that we do not live to ourselves, that we are linked to the past and the future, and that everything that happens requires a due consideration for all that surrounds it -- then America would have its greatest days in the new millennium.

Thank you very much, and God bless you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:07 p.m. on North Ocean Beach. In his remarks, he referred to Carolyn Cummins, president, Maryland Coastal Bays Program, and Marc Koenings, superintendent, Assateague National Island Seashore.

LOAD-DATE: June 30, 2000

Source: [All Sources](#) : / . . . / : **Public Papers of the Presidents** ⓘ

Terms: **headline (remarks) and atl 5 (environment)** ([Edit Search](#))

View: Full

Date/Time: Thursday, December 21, 2000 - 5:24 PM EST

[About LEXIS-NEXIS](#) | [Terms and Conditions](#)

Copyright © 2000 LEXIS-NEXIS Group. All rights reserved.

Public Papers of the Presidents

Public Papers of the Presidents

April 15, 2000

CITE: 36 Weekly Comp. Pres. Doc. 843**LENGTH:** 1949 words**HEADLINE:** Remarks on Signing a Proclamation Establishing the Giant Sequoia National Monument in Sequoia National Forest, California**BODY:**

Thank you very much. Thank you, and good morning. I think we should all be very grateful for the beautiful day we have. I know it was exciting that it snowed here last night -- [laughter] -- but I was watching Alexander give his fine remarks, and I was thinking that growing older has some merit, but one thing it doesn't have is the ability to withstand cold better. [Laughter] We took this whole walk, and there he is in his short-sleeve shirt, and he never flinched, he never shivered, he just walked right on.

I want to thank Alexander for his remarks and for his example and the work that he has done and the other young people he has exposed to this magnificent grove. I want to thank Secretary Glickman and Art Gaffrey. Secretary Glickman did a lot of work on this, and he talked about it in advance, and I'll say a few more words about it, but I appreciate it. Art told me he's been here almost 5 years now.

And I want to thank Marta Brown, who is, herself, a remarkably devoted and accomplished public citizen. I wish George were here with us today. I think he's smiling down on us, and I'm glad you could be a part of this. Thank you, Mike Dombeck and Jim Lyons. And I'd also like to thank my main environmental adviser, George Frampton, who runs our Council on Sustainable Development, Environmental Quality, for being here.

I'd like to thank the representatives of the Tule River Tribe who are here, who also cherished these great trees. Thank you for coming.

About a hundred years ago, Theodore Roosevelt dedicated America's first national monuments. He said he was doing it because we couldn't improve upon our native landscape. In his words, "The ages have been at work on it, and man can only mar it. What you can do, is keep it for your children and your children's children."

Well, as we have already heard today, these giant sequoias clearly are the work of the ages. They grow taller than the Statue of Liberty, broader than a bus. They are the largest living things on this Earth, so perfectly adapted to their **environment** that one has never been known to die of old age. And as has already been said, many we have seen today are more than 1,500 years old. They began when America was not even imagined and Europe was in the Dark Ages.

Once these groves flourished all across the American West. Today, they exist only here in the Sierras. Our second national park was created in 1890 to protect them. Yet half the remaining groves lie outside the national park. And although sequoias on Federal lands are currently protected from logging, the **environment** around them must also be protected for the great trees to grow and reproduce.

That is why we're here today. We're looking forward to the first Earth Day of the 21st century, and I think the best way to celebrate it is to designate the Trail of 100 Giants, more than 30 nearby sequoia groves, and the magnificent forest that surrounds them, the Giant Sequoia National Monument.

These lands will continue to be managed by the Forest Service, as it once again embraces the conservation ethic that inspired its creation 95 years ago. More and more Americans are discovering our national forests, with places to hike, camp, ride horses, enjoy a few hours of quiet contemplation. Years from now, Americans will come here to do all these things, and these majestic trees will continue, as John Muir said, to "preach God's forestry fresh from heaven."

I know there have been strong and sometimes conflicting views about the best way to manage these Federal lands. Secretary Glickman recommended that they be protected after careful analysis and consultation with the residents of the area, State, tribal, and local officials, and Members of Congress. The Forest Service will work with the local community closely to develop a long-term plan. We want to ensure that all of the interests are respected and that we help to bring jobs and opportunity to the area.

This is not about locking lands up; it is about freeing them up for all Americans for all time. We're here because we recognize that these trees, though they live to be very old and grow very large, like life itself are still fragile. The roots are surprisingly shallow, and the greatest threat to the trees' life is any disturbance to the tenuous balance between the tree and the ground that anchors it.

Thirty years ago next week, Americans celebrated the first Earth Day because they understood that we, too, have shallow roots on this planet and that our future depends upon balance among all living things. The story since then is a story of American progress to protect and preserve that balance.

Since 1970, we've cleaned up many of our worst toxic waste sites and waterways, cut toxic factory emissions almost in half. The American people have made environmental protection part of their daily lives. They have demanded that government and industry act to protect our national treasures.

I am profoundly grateful for the opportunities that Vice President Gore and I have had over this last 7 years and a few months to act as stewards of our **environment**. We have adopted the strongest air quality protections ever, improved the safety of our drinking water and food, cleaned up about 3 times as many toxic waste sites as the two previous administrations combined, helped to promote a new generation of fuel-efficient vehicles and vehicles that run on alternative fuels, launched new efforts to fight the sprawl that threatens so many of our quality of life.

We've helped hundreds of communities to turn dangerous brownfields deserted by industry into safe, productive space. And yes, we have tried to protect a lot of our Nation's precious treasures. It seems to me that these last 7 years should finally have put to rest the idea that you can't have a strong economy and a cleaner, safer, more balanced **environment**. And I hope we will never have that debate again.

On this Earth Day I would like to emphasize three things. First, obviously, this national monument. Second, what more we can do to preserve the most beautiful places in this country for all our children's futures. We have a lands legacy initiative to protect green spaces, from the most remote mountains to the nearest city park. This year I've asked Congress to provide \$ 1.4 billion to protect those special places, including nearby Dillingwood Grove, the last privately held grove of giant sequoias. I hope we get the money for that, too.

But the thing I want all of you to understand is that if this fund passes, most of the money will go to States and communities to help them pursue their own conservation priorities, including communities here in California. It will empower people all across America to protect those things that are most dear to them, close at hand, on a permanent basis.

I'm happy to report that there's strong bipartisan support for this. We had a great meeting last week at the White House with Republican and Democratic congressional leaders, and I think we've got a good chance to build the lands legacy initiative this year.

Second, we need to invest in the future of our **environment** not just at home but around the world.

Tropical forests -- where a lot of us would like to be right now -- *[laughter]* -- tropical forests are home to more than half the known species on Earth. Yet they're being lost at the rate -- now, think about this; we came here to save these trees -- tropical forests, the home of many indigenous peoples, as well, are being lost at the rate of 50 acres a minute. This year I have proposed a greening the globe initiative to help developing countries protect their endangered forests and better manage their natural heritage.

And all these efforts to preserve biodiversity are important. But the last point I'd like to make is, they won't do much good -- if I get killed by this falling ice -- *[laughter]* -- they won't do much good unless we band together to meet the greatest environmental challenge of the new century, climate change and global warming.

The 1990's were the hottest decade on record. Scientists say that the temperature rise is at least partly due to human activity, and that if unchecked, climate change will result in more storms and floods, more economic disruptions, more permanent flooding of coastal areas, perhaps the entire flooding of island nations, and more threats to unique habitats such as the one in which we are today.

So the last point I want to make is, I hope all of you will help us to build a national consensus to cut down our emissions of greenhouse gases and to work with others around the world to use existing technologies to help them do the same. I urge those in Congress who have opposed our efforts to drop their opposition, to recognize that we now have the technology -- and we will soon have much more -- to cut emissions while continuing to grow the economy.

For example, we have the technology to reduce by 85 percent the amount of energy it takes to run a refrigerator. We will soon have cars on the street that routinely get more than 60 miles a gallon and new technologies such as fuel cells and biofuels to give us the equivalent of hundreds of miles from every gallon of gasoline. Just by changing the lights in the White House, I cut the power bills \$ 100,000 a year. *[Laughter]* And we put in a new heating system, a more fuel efficient roofing system.

If the changes we made in the White House were made in every Federal building, which I'm trying to get done, we would take the equivalent -- we would reduce green-house gases so much it would be the equivalent of taking 1.7 million cars a year off the road. These things are out there now. They will generate jobs; they will generate economic activity. And it is profoundly important that all of us who think about these things continue to talk to our friends and neighbors until we build a vast national consensus for concerted action.

Now, I've asked Congress for over \$ 2 billion for this, to fund local, national, and international efforts to reduce greenhouse gases, to fund clean technologies, to provide tax incentives for those who produce and those who purchase these kinds of products.

Now, before I sign a proclamation, let me just remind you that for over a hundred years, beginning with the residents of Visalia, California, Americans have sought to save these giant sequoias. Earth Day brought groups of Americans together on a crusade to save the treasures of our planet.

Today let's remember, even here on the Trail of 100 Giants, the global village presses even closer upon us. We have to look within our communities and beyond our borders for allies to deal with our common environmental challenges. We're doing our part today to make sure that the monarchs after we're long gone, rooted strong in the web of nature that sustains us all.

It has been a great honor for me to be here. I thank all of you who have supported these decisions. I thank you, again, Secretary Glickman. But I ask you, when you walk out of here today, remember that not every person can come to this gorgeous giant grove, but every person can benefit from our continued efforts to improve our **environment** and sustain our natural heritage. And we still have a very great deal to do.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:10 a.m. on the Trail of 100 Giants. In his remarks, he referred to Eagle Scout Alexander Reed-Krase, who introduced the President; Arthur L. Gaffrey, forest supervisor, Sequoia National Forest; and Marta Macias Brown, widow of former Representative George E. Brown, Jr.

LOAD-DATE: May 25, 2000

Source: [All Sources](#) : / . . . / : **Public Papers of the Presidents** ⓘ

Terms: **headline (remarks) and atl 5 (environment)** ([Edit Search](#))

View: Full

Date/Time: Thursday, December 21, 2000 - 5:25 PM EST

[About LEXIS-NEXIS](#) | [Terms and Conditions](#)

[Copyright](#) © 2000 LEXIS-NEXIS Group. All rights reserved.

Public Papers of the Presidents

Public Papers of the Presidents

January 12, 1999

CITE: 35 Weekly Comp. Pres. Doc. 39**LENGTH:** 2015 words**HEADLINE:** Remarks Announcing the Lands Legacy Initiative**BODY:**

Thank you. Thank you very much. Thank you, ladies and gentlemen, for that welcome. Thank you, Jean Mason, for taking the tour with us and for the work you do with the neighborhood association. Thank you, Mr. Mayor, for showing up here today and being with us.

Jean was telling us that a lot of the school-children in Washington, DC, come to the Arboretum every year on tours. I hope your presence here and her remarks here will lead even more of the city's children to find their way to this remarkable place.

I'd like to thank Thomas Elias for the tour that he gave the Vice President and me and Jean today. And I thank Secretary Babbitt for his strong leadership for the environment, especially in the area that we're discussing today, and Deputy Agriculture Secretary Rich Rominger and the other representatives here from the Agriculture Department, the Commerce Department, the EPA.

And I want to thank Theodore Roosevelt IV for being faithful to his family and his national heritage, in all the wonderful work he's done. And I'd like to say just a special word -- I see my good friend Senator Gaylord Nelson out there -- people in public life have periodic chances to make an impact that will last far beyond their own lives. I think Senator Nelson certainly has.

Six and a half years ago, in the summer of 1992, in the late spring, when I first talked to Al Gore about joining the ticket in the '92 election, this -- what we're here to do today -- this is one of the things that I talked to him about. And I said, "I want you to come help me. There are things you know more about than I do." We differ on how many and what they are. [Laughter] But anyway, I said, "You know, there are things you know more about than I do." And I said, "We can make a difference that will last forever, for as long as the United States lasts." And he has been faithful to that in this administration. And I'm very grateful to him.

I also want to thank George Frampton for the work that he has done to put this proposal together.

We just took this tour to learn about the vital research the Agriculture Department does here, to also hear about the young children, the families that use this facility. I also heard about the elementary schoolers who grow vegetables and donate much of their harvest to the D.C. Central Kitchen. I heard about the AmeriCorps members and hundreds of other dedicated volunteers who work here to make sure that we'll always have this beautiful sanctuary in the middle of our Capital City.

I'd like to mention one of them who is here, Mary Morose, over here. Thank you for being here. She is a retired Government geologist who recently donated more than \$ 1 million of her life's savings to help ensure that the Arboretum will always be here, for the children to see. Thank you, and God bless you.

We're just here trying to follow Mary's lead. We think every child in every community ought to have a chance to grow up around tall trees as well as tall buildings, to know what vegetables look like when they're growing in the ground, not just when they're in the grocery store, to know what it feels like to walk on a carpet of pine needles as well as one of asphalt.

At the dawn of the century, many Americans saw nature only as a resource to be exploited or an obstacle to be overcome. We can all take pride, each of us, in the work that we have done and will do. But it really is truly astonishing that, at the dawning of the industrial age in America, Theodore Roosevelt, even then, knew nature was a divine gift, that old-growth forests were more than trees to be cut down, that a pristine peak was more than a repository of ore. He set aside millions of acres of forests and mountains and valleys and canyons, land shaped by the hand of God over hundreds of millions of years. He defined his great central task as leaving this land even a better land for our descendants than it is for us.

In the last hundred years, I think only his kinsman, Franklin Roosevelt, approached his devotion to setting aside land and preserving resources. We have tried over these last 6 years to fulfill that vision. We have set aside more than 1 1/2 million acres in the spectacular red rock canyons in Utah. And I might say, I think more and more folks out there have decided it's not such a bad idea. [Laughter]

We have protected vast acres of the Mojave Desert of California, designating three new national parks; saved more than 400,000 pristine acres of land in Alaska. We're about to complete an historic agreement to save vast tracts of ancient redwoods in California. We have worked hard to preserve the Florida Everglades and to restore much of them; and put a stop to a massive mining operation planned for right next to Yellowstone, America's very first national park.

But we have a lot to do. All of you know that. Our population is growing; our cities are growing; our commitment to **conservation** must grow as well. We'll never have a better time to act because of the unprecedented prosperity, because we had our first surplus this year -- or last year -- in nearly 30 years. And we ought to remember what Theodore Roosevelt said, "We are not building this country of ours for a day. We have to make sure it lasts through the ages."

So today I am proud to announce a lands legacy initiative: \$ 1 billion to meet the **conservation** challenges of a new century, fully paid for in my new balanced budget, more than doubling our already considerable commitment to protect America's land. It represents the single largest annual investment in protecting our green and open spaces since Theodore Roosevelt set our Nation on the path of **conservation** nearly a century ago. And to keep on that path, we will be working with Congress to create a permanent funding stream for this purpose, beginning in 2001.

The first part of the plan builds directly on Theodore Roosevelt's **conservation** legacy by adding new crown jewels to our endowment of natural resources. Next year alone, we will dedicate \$ 440 million, largely from the sale of oil from existing offshore oil leases, to acquiring and protecting precious lands and coastal waters. Secretary Babbitt and I were talking about it on the way in.

Among our many priorities, we intend to secure an additional 450,000 acres of private land in and around the new Mojave and Joshua Tree National Parks, to expand beautiful forest refuges in Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire, and New York, to continue our massive restoration of Florida's Everglades, to extend America's marine sanctuaries and restore coastal reefs.

In addition, I will propose to add the highest level of wilderness protection to more than 5 million acres of back-country lands within Yellowstone, Glacier, Great Smoky Mountain, and other national parks. If Congress approves this request, then these places will never know the roar of bulldozers and chainsaws. They will never drown out the call of the wild. Families will still be free to enjoy the lands, but they will be expected to take only photographs and leave only footprints.

The second part of our plan, which works in tandem with the livable communities initiative the Vice President announced yesterday, represents a new vision of environmental stewardship for the new century. Today, it's no longer enough to preserve our grandest natural wonders. As communities keep growing and expanding, it's become every bit as important to preserve the small but sacred green and open spaces closer to home: woods and meadows and seashores where children can still play; streams where sportsmen and women can fish; agricultural lands where family farmers can produce the fresh harvest we often take for granted.

In too many communities, farmland and open spaces are disappearing at a truly alarming rate. In fact, across this country, we lose about 7,000 acres every single day. And as the lands become more scarce, it becomes harder and harder for communities to then afford the price of protecting the ones that are left. That's why we have to act now.

So we will also dedicate nearly \$ 600 million to helping communities across our country save the open spaces that greatly enhance our families' quality of life. With flexible grants, loans, and easements, we will help communities to save parks from being paved over. We'll help to save farms from being turned into strip malls. We'll help them to acquire new lands for urban and suburban forests and recreation sites. We'll help them set aside new wetlands, coastal and wildlife preserves. There will be no green mandates and no redtape. Instead, the idea is to give communities all over our country the tools they need to make the most of their own possibilities.

Let me just give you an example of what I mean. South Kingstown, Rhode Island, was a quiet farming town for more than two centuries. Today, it's the fastest growing community in the State. Its citizens welcome growth, but they want to maintain their parks and their open spaces. They want to make sure parents won't have to sit in traffic jams when they could be home reading to their children. They want to remain the kind of livable town where employers have no trouble recruiting educated workers interested in a high quality of life. So South Kingstown is setting aside one of every five acres as green space. They're revitalizing the historic downtown by creating a greenway along the Saugatucket River so people can stroll and bike right through the heart of town.

And in November voters overwhelmingly approved a million-dollar bond measure to protect more farms and more open spaces. This is the work we will help them to complete and the kind of work we will help people all over America to do. This is the kind of future-oriented community action all Americans, without regard to party or region, should be supporting, action that combines a vigorous commitment to economic prosperity with an equally vigorous commitment to **conservation**.

Ever since Theodore Roosevelt launched our Nation on the course of **conservation**, pessimists have claimed that this would hurt the economy. They've been wrong for 100 years now, but they haven't given up. Time and again they have been wrong. Whether the issue was park land preservation, acid rain, deadly pesticides, polluted rivers, the ozone hole, or any number of other environmental issues all of you know very well, we have always found ways to improve our environment, protect the public health, and enshrine our public heritage and still continue to grow our economy.

In fact, with the recent developments in technology and the looming problems of climate change, we now know that we will have a far more prosperous economy if we do the right things by the environment. And I hope that in the 21st century we will not have to fight that battle for another 100 years.

With this historic lands legacy initiative and the farsighted livable communities plan the Vice President announced yesterday, we will use flexible, innovative means to protect our Nation's and our communities' natural heritage. We will help to create livable cities where both citizens and businesses want to put down roots. We will honor the core principle Theodore Roosevelt set out for us 100 years ago: to leave this magnificent country even a better land for our descendants than it is for us.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:15 p.m. at the National Arboretum. In his remarks, he referred to Jean Mason, president, Arboretum Civic Association, who introduced the President; Mayor Anthony A. Williams of Washington, DC; Thomas S. Elias, Director, National Arboretum; Theodore Roosevelt IV, member, board of directors, League of **Conservation** Voters, and great-grandson of President Theodore Roosevelt; former Senator Gaylord Nelson, Earth Day founder; and George T. Frampton, Jr., Acting Chair, Council on Environmental Quality. The transcript made available by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of Vice President Al Gore.

LOAD-DATE: February 16, 1999

Source: [All Sources](#) : / . . . / : **Public Papers of the Presidents** 

Terms: **headline (remarks) and atl 5(conservation)** ([Edit Search](#))

View: Full

Date/Time: Thursday, December 21, 2000 - 5:13 PM EST

[About LEXIS-NEXIS](#) | [Terms and Conditions](#)

[Copyright](#) © 2000 LEXIS-NEXIS Group. All rights reserved.

Public Papers of the Presidents

Public Papers of the Presidents

October 7, 1998**CITE:** 34 Weekly Comp. Pres. Doc. 1998**LENGTH:** 3415 words**HEADLINE:** Remarks at the League of Conservation Voters Dinner**BODY:**

Thank you very much for that wonderful welcome. Let me say, first of all, I want to thank Deb Callahan for her opening remarks and her leadership. I thank your chairman, Mike Hayden. I'd like to thank my EPA Administrator, Carol Browner, for being here and for the good job she does. I'd like to say a special word of appreciation to the three Members of Congress who are here tonight, without whom I could have accomplished very little over these last 6 years. Thank you, George Miller, Norm Dicks, Maurice Hinchey. Thank you for what you have done for our country.

And I'd also like to just express my appreciation to three people here -- who aren't here, who have been a real inspiration to me and a constant source of support in a lot of these fights we have taken on: first and foremost, the Vice President; second, the First Lady; and third, Secretary Babbitt. They have all, in ways none of you will ever know, as well as all those you're aware of, had countless, countless conversations with me about a lot of the issues that I will mention tonight, and some I will forget.

But in an administration, the President often gets the credit when the inspiration, the ideas, the energy, and sometimes the constructive nagging comes from other people. Now, Carol Browner, for example, constructively nagged me -- *[laughter]* -- to make sure we stood up for clean air.

Congressman Boehlert, is that you back there? I didn't see you. Thank you, sir. *[Applause]* I'm glad to see you. Thank you very much.

But anyway, everybody said the sky was falling, and Carol said the kids need to breathe. And so we wound up doing it her way. *[Laughter]* And we're still rocking along pretty well.

And tonight I hope you'll permit me to say a very special word of appreciation to one of your honorees who is about to leave our administration, the Chair of the CEQ, Katie McGinty. Let's give her a hand. *[Applause]* Thank you.

I just was informed I missed another Member of Congress and another friend of the **environment**, Congresswoman Connie Morella. Where are you, Connie? There you are. Thank very much. *[Applause]* Thank you.

We've had a lot of exceedingly complex, as well as difficult -- politically difficult but also intellectually complex decisions we've had to make, working out our position on climate change, on how to deal with the northwest forest challenge, on whether we could figure out a way to save Yellowstone, on figuring out the genuine equities that lay underneath the big decision on Grand Staircase Escalante. And in all of those cases, Katie McGinty has been there, working with all the various people affected and concerned, trying to make sure we did the right thing by the **environment** and to make sure we did it increasingly, I believe, in the right way. And I am very, very much indebted to her. I'll miss her, and we wish her well. Thank you. *[Applause]* She's actually going to India for awhile, and I told her I expect by the time I get there, there will be no longer any nuclear issues between the United States and India. *[Laughter]* If she can solve all these other problems, deal with all this other contention, this ought to be just another drop in the bucket.

Let me begin tonight where Deb Callahan left off. I agree that our job is not simply to convince people of the importance of environmental stewardship; the harder part is to convince people of the power they have not only to stand up for what they believe in but to change what they disagree with. We have seen that over and over and over again. For too many years, the champions of the **environment** have been in the clear majority in America but have been insufficiently organized across economic and regional and party lines to bring their force to bear with their friends in the Congress.

Now, we still have that task in the next 30 days, because the next 30 days will be critical to the future of the **environment**. Indeed, we have that task in the next few days, the last days of this congressional session before the election. And I'll have more to say about that in a moment.

One of the best illustrations of citizen power to change what is wrong is actually here under our noses. Just before America celebrated its first Earth Day, a wide-eyed, but fairly low-level congressional staffer, recently out of college, had a great democratic idea, to create an environmental scorecard for Members of Congress and empower voters to make a more informed choice. With that idea, that young woman launched the League of Conservation Voters and had enormous influence ever since. Marion Edey, thank you very much. Where are you? Stand up. Where are you? [Applause] Thank you.

Over the past generation when we have faced clear common threats, our citizens often have joined together in common resolve. America came together to heed Rachel Carson's warnings by banning DDT and other poisons. America cleaned up rivers so filthy they were catching on fire. America phased out lead in gasoline and the chemicals that deplete our protective ozone layer. America achieved all these things in no small measure because of the broad bipartisan citizen power mobilized by groups like the LCV.

Over the past 6 years, we have worked together to build on these accomplishments, to preserve our national treasures like Florida's Everglades, California's ancient redwoods, the spectacular red-rock canyons of Utah. Just last month, Katie McGinty was out in Yellowstone commemorating our success in protecting the park from the New World Mine.

We are doing our best to lead the way on the global **environment**. We made sure the Kyoto agreement was strong and realistic, and we're determined that America must do its part to reverse global warming. We're protecting the health of our families and communities. We've accelerated Superfund clean-ups, issued the toughest air quality standards ever, dramatically reduced toxic pollution, not through the heavy hand of regulation but by giving communities access to the information they deserve.

These efforts reflect not only our, yours and mine, our common commitment to protecting the **environment**, but to doing it in the right way, innovative, commonsense solutions that achieve the greatest protection at the least cost. That means rejecting the false choice that pits the economy against the **environment**.

I want to say a little more about that in a moment. But I have to tell you that the largest obstacle we face in our Congress, in our country, and in the world in getting a united, serious approach to climate change is the deeply embedded, almost psychic dependence that so many decisionmakers in our country and all over the world have to the elemental notion that economic growth is still not possible without industrial era energy use patterns. People simply don't believe it, so that when I talk to people in developing countries and when I talk to people in the still developing Congress -- [laughter] -- we have these -- I say that in a -- that's a compliment, as I will say more about it in a moment. [Laughter]

We still have the people that are literally obsessed with the notion that seriously addressing climate change is somehow a plot to wreck America's economic future and political sovereignty. I asked somebody today how much time we had spent complying -- and most of you don't think I did enough on climate change, right? Is that right? Let's put it out here on the table. [Laughter] Most of you

don't think I did enough on climate change. I proposed a series of very, I think, effective tax incentives to get people to do the right things and make them economically efficient and a major increase in research and development. And there is a committee in the House of Representatives that acts like I'm right up there with the black helicopter crowd. [Laughter] It's true.

I asked today; we believe that we have spent 10,000 hours complying with subpoenas from a committee who believes we are subverting the future of America with these modest proposals on climate change. Hundreds of thousands of dollars in compliance costs over and above the salaries of the people involved. Why is that? Are these bad people who don't love their country? Do they really want to destroy our **environment**? Do they believe their grandchildren don't need to deal with this? Absolutely not. They honestly still believe that economic growth is not possible without industrial age energy use patterns. "Don't show me those solar reflectors that go on roofs now that look just like ordinary shingles. Don't bother me with those windows that let in twice as much light and keep out twice as much heat and cold. I don't want to hear about the economics of insulation or the lights that will save themselves a ton of greenhouse emissions during the life of the lamp."

So I say to you, we have still a huge intellectual battle to fight, a way of looking at the world and the future that helps to bring us together, instead of drive us apart. And one of the central ideas is the honest belief that you cannot only grow the economy and preserve the **environment**, you can actually grow the economy and improve the **environment**.

This country has the lowest unemployment rate in 28 years, the fastest wage growth in 20 years, the smallest percentage of the people on welfare in 29 years, the first surplus in 29 years, the highest homeownership ever. But compared to 6 years ago, the air is cleaner; the water is cleaner; the food is safer; there are fewer toxic waste dumps; and we have done quite a lot of other things to protect the **environment**. It is simply not true that you can't grow the economy and improve the **environment**. And vast, vast technological and conservation and alternative energy source opportunities have been completely untapped compared to their economically available potential in our country today.

So we have a lot more work to do, but I will say again, sometimes you have to win the battle of the big ideas, even if it's with simple, small examples, before you can really move our vast country in one direction without interruption.

So I would like to make here a point I have tried to make to our fellow citizens in every forum I could, since it became obvious that we were going to have a balanced budget and a surplus. The temptation is to be diverted or just relaxed in a good economic time. That would be an error. These times are, first of all, highly dynamic. We have enormous challenges of which you are well aware, the global financial challenge, the global environmental challenge. It would be a terrible mistake for us to squander this moment of opportunity, when so much good is happening for America and we have a level of confidence about our ability to meet challenges that we have not had in decades, by being either diverted or relaxed. We need to face the challenges we have and think about how we can best use this prosperity to build the kind of future we want.

Tonight I'll give you an example of one thing we're trying to do to use this time of prosperity, adding vital new protections for our Nation's wetlands. Earlier this year, as part of our Clean Water Action Plan, I set a goal of restoring 100,000 acres of wetlands a year by 2005. Today the Army Corps of Engineers is proposing changes to ensure that we think twice before building in our most sensitive wetlands. Twenty years ago, if you'd told me I'd see this day and this initiative from that august body, I never would have believed it. And I congratulate them on it and honor them for it.

From now on, we will require a full environmental review, with full public participation, of all projects in critical wetlands areas, particularly floodplains. In a typical year, 140 Americans die in floods, and \$ 4 billion in property is destroyed. Just in this past week, nine people have died in floods in Missouri and Kansas. That's why FEMA Director James Lee Witt felt so strongly about strengthening protections for the floodplains. By thinking twice, we can prevent tragedy and save taxpayer dollars while protecting the **environment**.

And as we all know, if we are going to do this, make the most of this moment, we have to do it together. For years and years, protecting the **environment** was a matter of bipartisan concern. And frankly, for a lot of people it still is. You have three good Democrats and two fine Republicans here tonight, unless I missed someone else that I wasn't given. [Laughter] But in the last Congress it seemed not to be the case. There was a direct frontal assault on the **environment**, a rollback of -- or an attempted rollback of 30 years on hard-won gains. As the LCV ably documented, more than a third of the Members of the 104th Congress scored a zero on the **environment**. The group tried to force me to sign a budget with unconscionable cuts in environmental protections. Twice the Government was shut down in no small measure because of environmental controversies. But because together we decided not to give in and fought back, it came out all right.

Now a lot of the same folks are back with a different tactic, here in the waning days of the congressional session, a sneak attack. Not only are they refusing to fully fund environmental priorities: the Clean Water Action Plan to help clean up waterways too polluted for fishing and swimming, an extraordinary percentage of the waterways in America; the Land and Water Conservation Fund to protect precious lands in danger of development; the climate change technology initiative to take commonsense steps to reverse global warming -- not only would they keep us from moving forward in these areas, but they're pushing once again in the opposite direction, as all of you know all too well, by loading appropriations bills up with a slew of antienvironmental riders.

Really that rider word is really well chosen because it's sort of an unrelated passenger riding along on a piece of legislation that otherwise looks pretty good. These special interest riders, among other things, would carve roads through the Alaskan wilderness, force overcutting in our national forests, cripple wildlife protections, and sell the taxpayers short.

Now, the sponsors of these riders know that the proposals could not stand on their own. They know that, therefore, they have to resort to a stealth tactic to get this done. I personally believe this unrelated rider strategy, unless it's something that has broad bipartisan support necessary to preserve some immediate national need, is bad for the democratic process, as well as bad for the **environment**. So tonight let me say, again, to you and to the Congress, I will veto any bill that will do unacceptable harm to our **environment** including its survival. [Applause] Thank you.

Let me say to all of you, there is hope that we can do better. This afternoon -- or this morning, I guess -- time flies when you're having fun -- [laughter] -- anyway, sometime today we had a marvelous ceremony at the White House, with over 30 Members of Congress, signing a higher education bill that had enormous Republican and Democratic support, that among other things gave us the lowest interest rates on student loans in nearly 20 years, will save \$ 11 billion to students with existing loans, about \$ 700 a student, for college students.

Perhaps even more important over the long run, this bill, with an idea inspired by Congressman Chaka Fattah from Philadelphia, provides support to set up mentoring programs for middle-school children in tough, inner-city and other poor school districts, and enables the mentors to tell the kids when they're 12 or 13, "If you stay in school and you keep learning, here is how much college aid you are going to be able to get, and I can tell you that right now." And it provides for partnerships so that universities and private donors can give more to the kids in those years and guarantee them. It was an extraordinary day.

And then this afternoon the House of Representatives rejected a parks bill that would have done a lot more harm than good -- listen to this -- by the bipartisan, overwhelming margin of 301 to 123. Thank you. Thank you. That is the kind of bipartisan spirit the modern environmental movement started with in 1970.

You know, I've never met anybody walking on a trail in a national park -- never -- that I knew when I saw them coming toward me what their party affiliation was, except on the rare occasions when I actually knew them. [Laughter] When you go into one of our wilderness areas, nobody asks you to

declare your affiliation. We all assume that we drink the same water; we swim in the same lakes; we breathe the same air; we eat the same food; we love the same natural surroundings; we have the same common stake in preserving the same **environment** for our children and our grandchildren.

And I hope this vote today indicates that we have several more days, coming in time between now and when the Congress goes home at the end of the week, for this sort of spirit of coming together.

And then, in the next 30 days, during this election season, I hope that ordinary citizens who care deeply about these issues will bring their voices to bear in the election. Just think what would happen if people of both parties and independents simply said, "We're going to do better. We're going to change, at last and forever, the idea that we have to have old-fashioned, destructive energy use patterns to grow the economy. We will not give in to those who want to put the sacred up for sale. The decisions we make today on climate change, water, wetlands, and air will have implications for decades, if not centuries to come. And we want a unifying vision that embraces people who may differ on many other things, to embrace our common home and our common future." I think the American people, for all kinds of reasons, are open to that sort of message in the next 30 days.

We are reminded by every event which occurs that we are living in a world in which we are ever more interdependent not only with each other as Americans, but with those who live beyond our borders and with the Earth we all share. We see it when there's a reverberation in our stock market because of what happens in Russia or Latin America or Asia. We see it when we understand some big chunk of Antarctica has broken off and is floating and indicates that the water level may be rising more rapidly because the climate is warming. We see it when we understand our common responsibility to try to stop people of different ethnic groups from killing each other in the Baltics and the Balkans and to try to get people of different racial and ethnic and religious groups to embrace what we have in common, even as we celebrate our differences at home.

The environmental movement and its leaders are probably better positioned because of your general orientation of these issues than virtually any other group in America to get the American people to rethink these big ideas; to think about how we can be reconciled to ourselves, to our **environment**, and committed to our future; to think about how we can appreciate not only our independence but our interdependence with one another and with our fellow human beings throughout the world.

On the edge of a new millennium, I really believe the development of that kind of approach, and whether we can do it and reconcile it, as I believe we can, in a very rich and wonderful way, with our own tradition of individual rights and individuality and autonomy -- if we can do that, I believe that will do more to ensure that we make the right decisions as a people across party and regional and income and other lines on the most profound decisions of our future than anything else.

You -- you are uniquely positioned to change our people's way of thinking about this. And you could hardly give a greater gift to your country at the end of one century and the dawn of another.

Thank you very much, and God bless you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 7:47 p.m. in the Grand Ballroom at the Mayflower Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to Deb Callahan, president, and John Michael Hayden, chairman of the board, League of Conservation Voters. The President also referred to the Kyoto Protocol on Climate Change and the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ).

LOAD-DATE: November 4, 1998

Source: [All Sources](#) : / . . . / : **Public Papers of the Presidents** ⓘ

Terms: **headline (remarks) and atl 10 (environment) and date geq (12/21/1995)** ([Edit Search](#))

View: Full

Date/Time: Thursday, December 21, 2000 - 4:23 PM EST

Public Papers of the Presidents

Public Papers of the Presidents

August 11, 1998**CITE:** 34 Weekly Comp. Pres. Doc. 1607**LENGTH:** 2176 words**HEADLINE:** Remarks at the Harry Tracy Water Filtration Plant in San Bruno, California**BODY:**

Thank you very much. Good morning. I asked Lorraine if any of her children were here, and she said they were all here. I would like to ask the members of your family to stand. [Applause] Everybody in Lorraine's family, stand. Good for you. There are your children, your husband. Thank you all. I'd say they were worth fighting for.

Good morning, everyone. Thank you for braving this beautiful, but rather warm California sunshine to participate in this event. Thank you, Mr. Mayor. Thank you, Ann Caen, for your service and the reference to Herb. Thank you, Lieutenant Governor Gray Davis, for your support for the **environment**. Thank you to Superintendent Paul Mazza and the members of the facility here, all of the people who work here. I'd like to thank them for what they do to help improve the lives of the people in this area. Thank you very much. I know we have members of the San Mateo board of supervisors and others -- perhaps other officials here.

And I'd like to say a special word of appreciation to Congressman Tom Lantos and especially for the reference he made to the terrible events a few days ago in Kenya and Tanzania. We now have -- as the Congressman mentioned, the American citizens who were killed there are coming home, and Hillary and I will go to Andrews Air Force Base to meet that sad homecoming plane on Thursday. In addition to that, you should know now, over 200 -- well over 200 African citizens have been killed and almost 5,000 injured. There are over 500 people still in the hospital in Nairobi in Kenya.

I think it's important for me to tell you that we have worked very closely with the Governments of Kenya and Tanzania in, first of all, determining and finding those who were killed and those who were injured and now in their treatment. And also they are working very closely with us in our attempts to find those who are responsible.

And I know this is terribly frightening to people when something like this happens, but in an ever more open world where people are traveling more and where more information and technology and, unfortunately, weaponry are available across national lines, and more and more information through the Internet, I think it is important that we all, as Americans, send a clear signal to the world that we are not going to back away from our involvement with other people, and we are not going to back away from our opposition to terrorism. It makes us more vulnerable as targets because we have taken the toughest stand around the world against terrorism. Now is the time to bear down, not back up, on that. And that is my determination. And I believe that's what the American people support. And I hope all of you will.

Let me say that today is a happy day because it marks another step forward in our attempt to bring the American people the kind of life I believe that all hard-working citizens deserve. It is tempting because our own country has enjoyed so much prosperity and a declining crime rate, declining welfare rolls, and declining other social problems, rising wages. Particularly in a place like California, where you had such a tough time for so many years, it's tempting at a good time like this for everybody to say, "Okay, we went through all those tough times. Now we've got good times. Mr. President, leave us alone. We want to relax. We want to enjoy this. We want to chill out." I think that's what some people say.

I think that would be a mistake. Why? Because all you have to do is pick up the newspaper any day or watch the news any night, and we see how fast the world continues to change -- always changing -- the way we work, the way we live, the challenges we face, the way we relate to each other and the rest of the world. At a time like this we should take our prosperity and the self-confidence it has given us as a country and say, "What are the challenges of the future and how can we use this moment of opportunity, because we're doing well, to take care of the long-term challenges to our children's future and to make America what it ought to be?"

We have to, for example, save Social Security for the 21st century, before all the baby boomers retire and impose unbearable strains on the system as it's now constituted. We have to make our elementary and secondary schools the best in the world, just as our higher education system is now. We have to prove that we can provide affordable and quality health care to all people, which is why I've fought so hard for this Patients' Bill of Rights.

We have to expand opportunity into innercity areas and rural areas and Native American reservations where there has been no recovery yet. We have to prove we can live together as one America as we get more diverse. We have to, as Tom Lantos said, fulfill our responsibilities in the world, because we cannot grow and prosper at home unless we are also strong abroad in pursuit of peace and freedom and prosperity.

But one thing we clearly have to do is to prove that we can grow our economy while we improve the **environment** and public health. The two things must never be seen in conflict. When they are, we pay a price that is terrible, first in the **environment**, second in public health, and eventually in the health of our economy.

And one example of that is what we're here to talk about today: the importance of our drinking water. It may have been gold that brought people to California 150 years ago, but water has enabled them to stay here and enabled this State to grow and expand to the point where now California comprises 13 percent of our entire Nation's population. It may be that the clear water that flows down the Sierra slopes and was miraculously a long time ago, through pipes and channels, taken into a reservoir here to provide water for this area was an even greater discovery than the gold. I think clearly it was.

Few States are blessed with such a supply of fresh water and none have done more to put it to productive use than California. Still, although there are problems, and I understand there are still disputes over water, I have seen in my own administration how, by working patiently together with different groups, cooperation can win out to protect this vital resource so there's enough for the farms, for the wildlife, and for the people.

Now, we also have to work to assure the quality as well as the supply. That's what we're here to talk about today. Mrs. Ross told you about what happened to her family and others in the Silicon Valley. Five years ago, the citizens of Milwaukee found themselves with 400,000 people sick, dozens of people dead because a microbe called cryptosporidium had contaminated their water supply.

The Vice President and I have worked hard to deal with this issue, to strengthen the Safe Drinking Water Act, to help communities upgrade treatment plants, and to zero in on contaminants posing the greatest threat. We required more industries to publicly disclose the chemicals they release into the air and water. The results of that have been quite remarkable. The factories required to provide this information -- listen to this, just the community right-to-know -- the factories required to provide the information about the chemicals they release into the air and water have reduced their toxic releases by almost half. That's what right-to-know can do.

Now, today we take another important step to empower communities with information. Beginning next year, under a new EPA community right-to-know rule I'm announcing today, water systems across our country must give their customers regular reports on the water flowing from their taps; to tell consumers where the water comes from, whether it meets Federal standards, as well as the likely source of any contaminants and their potential health effects.

Thanks to these reports, contamination in the water will no longer be invisible to the eye. Families will see at a glance whether their drinking water is safe. When it is not, utilities will have a crystal-clear incentive to clean it up, and citizens like Lorraine Ross will not have to fly blind. They will be able to come up all over America, and they will know what they have to work with and what they must work toward.

Safe water for our children is something all Americans agree on. This should not be a partisan issue. We've improved the quality of drinking water so much over the years, in fact, because of a bipartisan effort. And yet, there is in Congress today a disturbing trend to break up what is historically, at least for the last 30 years, been a bipartisan consensus on the **environment**.

If there is ever an area where we need progress, not partisanship, it is to ensure the purity and safety of our **environment**. But there is a question about that. So far, Congress has refused to fund my clean water action plan that would help to restore the -- listen to this -- the 40 percent of our waters that are still too polluted for fishing and swimming.

In February, I proposed to add 100 national and historic sites across our country to our endowment of protected areas. One of the things I'm proudest of that our administration has done is that we have protected more land in perpetuity than any administration in history except those of the two Roosevelts. And now we have 100 more sites, places like Bain Island, a haven for endangered wildlife in San Francisco Bay, and the grave site of John Muir, perhaps the greatest preservationist of all time.

Believe it or not, the money has been appropriated for all these sites, but under the law, once they're selected, the congressional leaders must approve its release. So far, that approval has not been forthcoming for months and months. Today, for the sites in California and throughout the country, again I ask Congress to release the funds already approved so we can preserve these precious places.

We need progress and not partisanship in our efforts to avoid the degradation of our ocean waters. We had a big ocean conference out here on the Monterey Peninsula not very long ago. And we need it in our efforts to combat climate change and to do America's part.

Just yesterday the Vice President announced new data showing that the month of July was the hottest month ever recorded since climate records have been kept on Earth. This is not some fly-by-night phenomenon -- the 9 hottest years ever recorded have occurred in the last 11 years; '97 was the hottest year ever measured; every month in '98 has been hotter than the preceding month in '97. And we need to work together.

Yet many in Congress want to cut the common-sense technology, market-oriented initiatives I have proposed to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions, and to do America's part. We can grow this economy, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, improve the **environment**. If we do not do so at some point in the not-too-distant future, our children will be living in an economy that is much reduced because we didn't do right by the **environment**. And we should never forget that.

Let me finally say that one of the things that I have found most frustrating in trying to create a bipartisan consensus on the **environment** is that I keep finding in all these bills that are sent to me legislative gimmicks called riders, which have nothing to do with the bills that pass, where the little rider is designed to weaken some environmental protection the United States has. Lawmakers have attached language to unrelated bills to cripple wildlife protection and cut through an Alaskan wildlife refuge with a \$ 30-million road. These back-door assaults must also stop. We shouldn't squander our bounty for short-term gain.

Now, the people of California know this. From Monterey Bay to Lake Tahoe, people who haven't always seen eye to eye on any political issue are working together to preserve their water and land. We are rebuilding at the grassroots level a consensus for preserving our **environment**, advancing

the public health as we grow our economy.

That message needs to get back to Washington, because every American has to come to grips with this fundamental challenge. We can never create the 21st century America we want for our children until we do not think of economic growth as divorced from the preservation of the **environment** and the public health. They must be seen as absolutely part of one indivisible effort to create the good life for the American people. If we do that and if we fulfill our responsibilities, then I'm convinced that for the children here in this audience. America's best days are still ahead.

Thank you, and God bless you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:22 a.m. outside the plant. In his remarks, he referred to community activist Lorraine Ross; Mayor Edward Simon of San Bruno; Ann Moller Caen, president, San Francisco Public Utilities Commission, and her late husband, Herb Caen; gubernatorial candidate Lt. Gov. Gray Davis; and Paul Mazza, superintendent, East Bay Water Treatment Facilities.

LOAD-DATE: September 8, 1998

Source: [All Sources](#) : / . . . / : **Public Papers of the Presidents** ⓘ

Terms: **headline (remarks) and atl 10 (environment) and date geq (12/21/1995)** ([Edit Search](#))

View: Full

Date/Time: Thursday, December 21, 2000 - 4:24 PM EST

[About LEXIS-NEXIS](#) | [Terms and Conditions](#)

[Copyright](#) © 2000 LEXIS-NEXIS Group. All rights reserved.

Public Papers of the Presidents

Public Papers of the Presidents

November 22, 1996**CITE:** 32 Weekly Comp. Pres. Doc. 2423**LENGTH:** 1237 words**HEADLINE:** Remarks on the International Coral Reef Initiative in Port Douglas, Australia**BODY:**

Thank you very much. Premier and Mrs. Borbidge, Mayor Berwick, Minister Hill and Mrs. Hill, members of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, and to Minister Moore and Mrs. Moore, especially to Alicia Stevens for reminding us what this is all about today.

Hillary and I and our party have had a wonderful visit to Australia. We understand now why it is called the Lucky Country. But we believe that there is more than luck involved here. Today we celebrate the commitment of a people of this country, of the United States, and people all over the world to the proposition that we must preserve the natural resources that God has given us. We are here near the biggest, best managed protected marine and coastal area in the world for a clear reason: Australia has made a national commitment to be good stewards of the land with which God blessed you.

I am especially pleased today, as has already been said, that the Government of Australia is honoring the United States by naming a section of the Great Barrier Reef after Rachel Carson. Rachel Carson was the great American environmentalist; she was a marine biologist. Vice President Gore wrote about Rachel Carson: She brought us back to a fundamental idea lost to an amazing degree in modern civilization, the interconnection of human beings and the natural **environment**. That interconnection clearly imposes upon all of us a shared responsibility. To preserve a future for our children and grandchildren, we must care for our shared **environment**. It is a practical and a moral imperative.

We are citizens not only of individual nations but of this small and fragile planet. We know that pollution has contempt for borders, that what comes out of a smokestack in one nation can wind up on the shores of another an ocean away. We know, too, that recovery and preservation also benefits people beyond the borders of the nation in which it occurs. We know that protecting the **environment** can affect not only our health and our quality of life, it can even affect the peace. In too many places, including those about which we read too often now on the troubled continent of Africa, abuses like deforestation breed scarcity, and scarcity aggravates the turmoil which exists all over the world.

I am very proud of the work our two nations have done to preserve our natural heritage. Just as we have been allies for peace and freedom, we must be allies in the 21st century to protect the Earth's **environment**. Our work together on the International Coral Reef Initiative is a shining example of what we can achieve. Founded in 1994 by Australia, the United States, and six other governments, this initiative helps nations and regions to conserve, manage, and monitor coral reefs.

Pollution, overfishing, and overuse have put many of our unique reefs at risk. Their disappearance would destroy the habitat of countless species. It would unravel the web of marine life that holds the potential for new chemicals, new medicines, unlocking new mysteries. It would have a devastating effect on the coastal communities from Cairns to Key West, Florida, communities whose livelihood depends upon the reefs.

Steadily we are making progress. In this part of the world the ICRI has played a crucial role in slowing the use of cyanide to harvest coral reef fish. Around the world, more than 75 nations and

scores of organizations have participated in ICRI programs. Today, with your knowledge and leadership, we are seeing to it that the world's reefs make it into the next century safe and secure. And I thank you for that.

Let me say that our effort to save the world's reefs is a model for the work that we can do together in other **environment** areas, and there is a lot of work to do. Deforestation is claiming an area of South Korea every year. Let us, together with the United Nations, develop a strategy for the sustainable management of all our forests.

Toxic chemicals and pesticides banned here and in the United States can still find their way into our lives, endangering our land, our water, and our children. Rachel Carson, whom we honor here today, helped alert us in the United States to these dangers. Let us now forge a global agreement to stop these toxic substances from being released into the world around us.

Today, thanks to the Montreal Protocol, we are slowing the production and the consumption of chlorofluorocarbons, the chemicals that have been eating a hole in the Earth's ozone layer. We're on our way to closing the ozone hole that threatens Antarctica and Australia. Now we must see to it that this landmark treaty is enforced from one corner of the Earth to the other. We need no more new holes in the ozone.

Finally, we must work to reduce harmful greenhouse gas emissions. These gases released by cars and power plants and burning forests affect our health and our climate. They are literally warming our planet. If they continue unabated, the consequences will be nothing short of devastating for the children here in this audience and their children.

New weather patterns, lost species, the spread of infectious diseases, damaged economies, rising sea levels: if present trends continue, there is a real risk that sometime in the next century, parts of this very park we are here in today could disappear, submerged by a rising ocean. That is why today, from this remarkable place, I call upon the community of nations to agree to legally binding commitments to fight climate change.

We must stand together against the threat of global warming. A greenhouse may be a good place to raise plants; it is no place to nurture our children. And we can avoid dangerous global warming if we begin today and if we begin together.

If we meet all these challenges, we can make 1997 a milestone year in protecting the global **environment**. We can do it in a way that encourages sustainable development. One thing we've learned in recent years is that protecting the **environment** and promoting human progress are not incompatible goals; they go hand in hand. I am very pleased that the United Nations General Assembly will have a special session in New York next year to review our progress in advancing sustainable development since the Earth summit in Rio.

An Australian folk tale has it that in the beginning the sky was so close to the Earth that it blocked out all the light. Everyone was forced to crawl in the darkness, collecting with their hands whatever they could find to eat. But the birds of that land decided that if they worked together they could raise the sky and make more room to move about. Slowly, with long sticks, they lifted the sky. The darkness passed, and everyone stood upright.

If we work together as those birds did, we can preserve our **environment** for our children, for their children, for generations beyond. Let us lift our sights and ourselves to that great challenge.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:45 p.m. at Port Douglas Park. In his remarks, he referred to Queensland Premier Robert Borbidge and his wife, Jennifer; Mayor Mike Berwick of Port Douglas; Senator Robert Hill, Minister for the **Environment**, and his wife, Diana; John Moore, Minister for Industry, Science, and Tourism, and his wife, Jacqueline; and Alicia Stevens, Port Douglas student

Public Papers of the Presidents

Public Papers of the Presidents

August 28, 1996**CITE:** 32 Weekly Comp. Pres. Doc. 1567**LENGTH:** 3257 words**HEADLINE:** Remarks in Kalamazoo, Michigan**BODY:***The President.* Thank you. Thank you so much.*Audience members.* Four more years! Four more years! Four more years!*The President.* Thank you, thank you, thank you all for being here and for your wonderful reception. Thank you all way over here in the corner for being here in big numbers. And back here. I think we should begin by thanking the Western Michigan University Band. They've been wonderful to us today, and we thank you. Thank you very much.

I want to thank Mayor Barbara Larson and the city and county officials who welcomed us here. I brought a lot of distinguished Michiganders with me: Congressman Bart Stupak and his wife, Laurie, from the Upper Peninsula; former Governor Blanchard, also our former Ambassador to Canada; Frank Garrison, the President of the AFL-CIO in Michigan; your Attorney General, Frank Kelley, and many others.

I know that before I came here there was another program. I thank Beverly Moore for emceeding it. I thank Linda Comer for what she said and for being a teacher. I thank Tim Eder of the National Wildlife Federation, Michigan Chapter. That's a very important group and a very important part of our commitment to the **environment** in the future.

Your congressional candidate, Clarence Annen. I'd also like to recognize a Paralympian who is here from your community, a medal winner in the national goal ball team, Sherry Gordon. Congratulations, Sherry. Where are you? There she is. Bless you. Congratulations.

I know that I'm in Comstock Township, right? So I'd like to thank the supervisor, Joe VanBruggen for welcoming us here. And I'd like to thank Kristi Carabula, the county Democratic chair who helped to get a lot of you here. I thank her.

I'd like to thank the community members who are here behind me. First, I want to recognize Representative Ed LaForge. Thank you, Ed, for being here with us. I see you've got some signs here.

I want to thank these young people who are here with me today: the Comstock Boy Scout and Cub Scout Troop and Pack 221; Brownie Troop 624; the Comstock YWCA; community citizen leaders; prime-time program representatives; the Kalamazoo Recycle Rangers -- I like that; that sounds good -- Kalamazoo Area Math and Science Center; Vicksburg High School Adventure Club and FFA; and the Kazoo School. Thank you all for being here.

I want to thank my good friend, Senator Carl Levin, for being here today and supporting the **environment** in general, and for being America's number one fighter for the Great Lakes and uniform quality standards for the Great Lakes water.

By the way, I'm sure you all know we've still got some work to do on that, so we can use 6 more years of Carl Levin to finish our work on the Great Lakes.

I want to thank Katie McGinty, the Chair of our Environmental Council in the White House. She's done a wonderful job on this and many others things. And most of all, I want to thank Mary Brown and her grandson Dan Cook.

Now, to give you some idea in what happens to you when you're young as opposed to when you're old, I asked Dan Cook how old he was and he said, "I'm 10." And I looked at him and I said, "Now, Dan are you 10?" He said, "Well, I'm almost 10." [Laughter] Well, I'm almost 49, too -- [laughter] -- in the reverse direction.

There aren't many young people his age who could have spoken so well and so forcefully. Didn't he do a good job? Thank you very, very much, Dan. And thank you, Mary Brown, for your lifetime of commitment to the quality of the **environment** in your State and your area.

Folks, you know, I've been on this train the last couple of days going through the heartland of America from West Virginia to Kentucky to Ohio to Michigan. Leaving you, I'm going on now to Michigan City, Indiana, and then I will fly to Chicago. I've been on this train for two reasons. First, I wanted to see people like you in the heartland of America, the people that really make this country go, the people I've been working for and fighting for for 4 years. But I also wanted to make the point that our train and our country are both on the right track to the 21st century.

For 4 years, I have pursued a very straight-forward strategy based on a vision of what our country ought to be like. When all these children who are in this audience spend most of their life in a new century, the world will be so different from the world people my age grew up in, different in how we work and live and relate to each other, very different in how we relate to the rest of the world, vastly, vastly increased opportunities, and significant new challenges. And I want us to go into that next century with every child in this country having the opportunity to live up to his or her God-given potential and live out their dreams. And I believe you want that, too.

In order to do that, our country has to create more opportunity and receive more responsibility from all of our citizens. That's the basic bargain of America. Our country has to remain the world's strongest force for peace and freedom and prosperity. And I appreciate what Mary said about our role in the world. It's important for America to lead the world. It's important for Americans that we do. And most of all, our country has to come together as one community.

All over the world -- this morning as I do every morning, I started my work day with a review of the situation in the rest of the world. And I thought to myself, how much time have I spent as President dealing with problems created because other people could not get along and because they insisted on looking down on people that lived on the same piece of land they did because they had a different race, a different ethnic group, a different religion, they were of a different tribe.

It happens in Africa and Rwanda and Burundi. It has consumed the Middle East for decades. It has consumed Northern Ireland for longer than that. It has rooted and caused butchery and slaughter in Bosnia we have worked so hard to end.

Why do people do this? What is special about America? We say, this is not a country about race. This is not a country about religion. This is a country where, if you believe in the Constitution, the Bill of Rights, the Declaration of Independence, if you are willing to show up tomorrow and be a good citizen it doesn't matter whatever else is special or unique or different about you; we're stronger for your difference; we're going forward together. And we have to have that commitment.

Now, we manifest that commitment in many different ways. I was so moved at our convention in Chicago when Christopher Reeve talked about his tragic accident and his determination to overcome it. And he reminded us that we not only have to continue to invest in research to try to find answers to the problems that beset us, we also need to deal humanely and decently with people who have difficulties.

Christopher Reeve came to see me in the White House, and he said, "Mr. President, I am so glad you

fought to stop Congress from destroying the Medicaid program and ending its guarantee to the elderly in nursing homes, to poor children, and to people who have disabilities, because not everybody who gets a disability is a wealthy person. And even wealthy people can be driven into poverty. And if it weren't for Medicaid, middle class families wouldn't be able to maintain their lifestyles." That's a part of our community.

I have to tell you, when Tipper Gore was talking last night, I was proud of the fact that my friend and the Vice President's wife has spoken up for 20 years to try to protect our children from unhealthful, indeed, affirmatively harmful cultural influences that will make it more difficult for them to be successful people. That's a part of our community, trying to make it more possible for parents to transmit their own values, not somebody else's commercially driven values, to the children of our country. I was proud of that.

And I was proud when my wife spoke last night at the convention and pointed out that we have been very fortunate in our lives. We've always had jobs where we could take time off when Chelsea needed us, but other working families need that same time off.

We've always had the best sort of health insurance. And I was there when Chelsea was born in the delivery room and when we took her room, but Hillary had the need to stay in the hospital a little extra time. And it's wrong for women and their newborn babies to be thrown out of the hospital after a day if they're not ready to go home. They ought to be able to stay longer. That's a part of our community.

We've had a good week in Washington right before we left for this convention. A lot of things were done that will create more opportunity, give us a chance to have more responsibility, and bring us together in a community. The minimum wage went up for 10 million people. Ninety percent of the small businesses in this country got a tax cut. We made it possible for people in small businesses to save for their retirement and for employees in small businesses to keep their retirement when they move from job to job. That's all important.

We gave people a tax credit of \$ 5,000 and more if there is a disability involved if they will adopt children. There are hundreds of thousands of children out there in this country that need good homes. We did that. That was good.

We made 25 million Americans safer in their health care because we said "You can't be denied health insurance anymore just because somebody in your family has been sick or because you changed jobs." That was a good thing for America.

We also passed the Safe Drinking Water Act and the pesticide protection act to help improve the public health and the **environment**. And that was a great thing for America.

That's what I've come here to talk to you about today. We cannot go forward together as a country, a country where it works for all of us, unless we have a shared commitment to protect the **environment**. And unless we want to protect everybody's **environment**, in the end, no matter how wealthy and powerful we are, the quality of our lives will be undermined.

[At this point, an audience member required medical attention.]

The President. Do you need a doctor over there? Are you okay? Over here? Where's my medical team? We got to have somebody.

Now, you think about that. It doesn't matter -- I don't care if you have got a billion dollars, if you live in America, in the end, the quality of your life will be undermined unless we save the **environment** for everybody. We all have an interest in clean air and safe water and safe food and in preserving our national treasures.

I can tell you this, compared to 4 years ago, there are tens of millions of people in America breathing

cleaner air. We've cleaned up more toxic waste sites in 3 years than the previous administrations did in 12.

We have revamped the meat and poultry inspection standards of this country for the first time in literally decades. We are moving in the right direction. We saved our national parks from an ill-advised congressional attempt to sell off some of them and underfund them. And that was a good thing.

We saved Yellowstone, our Nation's first and great national treasure as a park, from the ravages of mining. And we are determined to do the same thing and save the Everglades in Florida. That's important to all of us.

We have kicked dozens and dozens of dangerous chemicals out of the marketplace and quickly replaced them with safer substitutes. We have increased community's right to know about what is in their community and what kinds of chemicals they are exposed to.

All these things are important and they matter. And we're better off because of them. We've also changed the way we do a lot of our environmental work. We've streamlined rules and regulations, challenged businesses and communities to come together and stop fighting. We've emphasized results, not punishments and regulations. We are proving that you don't have to choose between a healthy **environment** and a healthy economy.

In Michigan, we have worked very closely with the auto workers in the Big Three to develop a clean car that will get 3 times the mileage of the average car today for the 21st century in a way that will put money in the pockets of American consumers, increase the quality of our **environment**, and maintain the dominance of our auto industry in the world for decades to come. If we can succeed in the clean car, it will be a major step forward for the cleanness of our **environment** and for the security of the work right here in Michigan.

But we have more to do. You all know we have more to do. You heard Mary's story of the work that is represented by this beautiful water behind us. And you know that a lot of these battles are won block by block, day by day. Carl Levin has been working on the Great Lakes for a very long time block by block, day by day, not just lake by lake, section by section. This is hard work. And we have more to do.

I want an America in the year 2000 where no child should have to live near a toxic waste dump, where no parent should have to worry about the safety of a child's glass of water, and no neighborhood should be put in harm's way by pollution from a nearby factory.

Today, I am calling for a new national commitment to help protect all communities from toxics by the year 2000. First, I am determined that finally we clean up the toxic waste sites that scar our landscape and threaten our neighborhoods.

When I came into office, I vowed to strengthen and improve the Superfund's cleanups. In the last 3 years -- in the last 3 years, not counting this year -- we have cleaned up 197 toxic waste sites, more than in the previous 12 years. We're doing 3 times more a year than were done before.

And we have done it while reducing the costs of these cleanups. The Kalamazoo River here is going to be cleaned up by polluters under your State's Superfund law. And some of the cleanup has not begun. But we have to keep working on this. We cannot slow down. We need to speed up the pace. These Superfund sites have been out there too long. And the longer they're there, the more danger there is that damage will be done. We must speed up the pace.

I am here in Michigan because 10 million American children under the age of 12 live within four miles of a toxic waste dump. And an exceptional percentage of the children who live there are children from the State of Michigan. Michigan has more at stake in this initiative than any other State, but every State's children are affected by our success. We must press ahead.

Today we must commit our Nation's willpower and resources to meet a clear goal. In the next 4 years we will clean up another 500 toxic waste sites, nearly double the pace of the Superfund cleanups. And by the year 2000 we will clean up two-thirds, the two-thirds worst toxic waste dumps in the country. We will get them out of the neighborhoods where the children live. We will do it.

[At this point, an audience member required medical attention.]

The President. We need another medical team over here. We need some water and my medical team over here, wherever they are. Here we go.

Let me also say that our cities are full of what we call Brownfields, urban toxic waste sites. We have proved that they can be cleaned up and turned into homes for safe businesses that create jobs in areas that thought that they would never get any new jobs again. The most important thing that I am working on with the mayors of America today is cleaning up these Brownfields so we can create jobs in the city. Again I tell you, good environmental policy is good for the economy. It creates jobs. It creates a future for America, and we have to be prepared to do it.

We must bring the full force of law to bear on polluters who are willfully jeopardizing the safety of our people. I am going to send to Congress an environmental crimes bill to make it a crime to attempt to pollute, that will give us the power to catch polluters before they poison the land. The bill will increase penalties for those who intentionally pump toxics into our neighborhoods where our children will be exposed. And it will enable us to hit polluters where it hurts. It will give prosecutors the power to freeze polluters' assets and require them to clean up their messes. That is perhaps the most important thing of all.

We're also going to expand our community right-to-know law to make more information, practical information available to families easier and faster. Right-to-know will protect you here in communities like Kalamazoo because you can find out what's dangerous to your families. Once there is a right-to-know law, companies think twice about what they do. In the decades since we've passed the first one, businesses have reported reducing toxic emission by 43 percent. Right-to-know works. Don't be fooled about it. It makes a big difference.

I have ordered the Environmental Protection Agency to give local environmental information to communities, including putting it on-line where it will be handy to computers, in one place by the year 2000. So that a parent could go to the local library or go to a school or just turn on a computer and immediately find out the chemicals in your community to which your children are exposed. That is a powerful early warning system. And it will help grassroots environmental activism clean the **environment** even more.

Finally, let me say, we have to take further steps to stop toxics from getting into our drinking water. I signed an Executive order that directs every Federal agency that's appropriate to join in our effort to crack down on those who would poison the waters and make them pay to clean it up. I want to see to it that Congress fully funds the Safe Drinking Water Act we just signed into law last month.

And in particular, I've made a commitment in my balanced budget plan to work with Carl Levin and others to continue to improve the quality of the Great Lakes. We've worked hard to carry out the Great Lakes water quality initiative, which Senator Levin did so much to bring about and we'll keep right on doing it.

We are blessed with magnificent natural resources. Every time our family goes on vacation in a National Park, I thank God again for the good fortune of being an American and for all the blessings we've been given just by the grace of God. But I'll tell you, we've been given it; it's up to us to do the right things with it.

We have learned some fundamental things. Not only do you not have to hurt the economy to protect the **environment** -- what difference does it make if you have money if you don't have clean water,

clean air, a good natural **environment**, safe food, and a good public health system?

And finally, we now know that this is not a negative thing. We now know that one of the most effective ways to create good, high-wage jobs in the 21st century is to invest in research, in technology, and in protecting the **environment**. That is the direction we're going to take and that will keep us right on track for the 21st century.

Thank you, and God bless you. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:30 p.m. at Merrill Park. In his remarks, he referred to Beverly Moore, former mayor of Kalamazoo; Linda Comer, principal, Lincoln Magnet School; Michigan State representative, Ed LaForge; and former Michigan State representative, Mary Brown.

LOAD-DATE: October 09, 1996

Source: [All Sources](#) : / . . . / : **Public Papers of the Presidents** ⓘ

Terms: **headline (remarks) and atl 10 (environment) and date geq (12/21/1995)** ([Edit Search](#))

View: Full

Date/Time: Thursday, December 21, 2000 - 4:24 PM EST

[About LEXIS-NEXIS](#) | [Terms and Conditions](#)

[Copyright](#) © 2000 LEXIS-NEXIS Group. All rights reserved.

Public Papers of the Presidents

Public Papers of the Presidents

March 11, 1996**CITE:** 32 Weekly Comp. Pres. Doc. 462**LENGTH:** 3373 words**HEADLINE:** Remarks to the Community in Hackensack, New Jersey**BODY:**

Thank you very much. President Mertz, thank you for making us feel so welcome at Fairleigh Dickinson. And Mayor Zisa, thank you for making us feel so welcome in your hometown; we're glad to be here, sir.

I want to thank all the New Jersey public officials who are here. I thank Senator Lautenberg, especially for his work on the **environment**. I thank Congressman Torricelli and Congressman Menendez and Congressman Payne. I thank my former colleagues, Governor Florio and Governor Brendan Byrne. And I want to thank Carol Browner for the fine job she has done here and in every State in the country, at the EPA. And most of all I want to thank the Vice President for being a constant inspiration to me on the subject of America's **environment**.

I thank the two families who are here who were introduced by Senator Lautenberg, the Dukers and the Flatows; and I thank them for their incalculable sacrifice and their continued devotion to the integrity and the freedom of Israel and the cause of peace in the Middle East. God bless you and thank you both very much.

I know that as President Mertz said, my friend, Leah Rabin, was here just a week ago to accept an award on behalf of herself and her late husband from this distinguished university. Yitzhak Rabin was a good friend of mine and he always took issue with those who characterized the creation of Israel and its continuance as some sort of miracle. He didn't think there was anything miraculous about it. He thought it was the direct result of thousands and thousands of people being able to devote a lifetime of hard work and effort and courage and ultimate sacrifice to a common cause. Tomorrow I will go to Egypt to try to advance that cause and beat back the terrorism that threatens it today.

But I want to talk to you today about the common cause we must make in our efforts to preserve and enhance our **environment** for ourselves and for our children. It will not be a miracle that preserves America's **environment** and the global **environment**; it will be the result of thousands and thousands of people, ultimately millions of people, devoting themselves to a common cause.

When I became President, I had a pretty straightforward vision. I wanted our country to come together, to create the opportunity that would permit every American who was willing to work for it a shot at the American dream. I want to go into the next century with our country still the strongest force for peace and freedom and security and prosperity in the world. I want this country, to come together around its basic values of responsibility and opportunity, of work and family and of community. I was then weary, and I remain even more impatient, with those who seek to divide the American people for short-term political gain.

In the State of the Union Address I gave all of you and our fellow Americans a report on where we are, where we have been, and where I think we have to go, and on the seven challenges I believe we have to address in order for those objectives to be reached as we begin a new century and a new millennium. We have to have stronger families and better childhoods for all our children. We have to open educational opportunity to every person so that every child and every adult has access to learning throughout life. We have to provide economic security for families who are willing to work for it, including those who have worked hard without raises, those who live in places that have not

felt the impact of the recovery, and those who are being downsized today but still have much to contribute to their families, their communities, and the future of our country.

We have to take our streets back from crime and drugs and gangs. We cannot walk away from our obligations to lead the world in the fight for peace and freedom. And we must continue to work to reinvent our Government so that it works better and inspires more trust. But, finally, we must also recognize that if we want this country to be the greatest country in the world in the next century, we have to provide for a clean and healthy **environment**.

This is not a luxury; it is not an option. It is about self-preservation, about the preservation of our children's future. It indeed is at the core of the spiritual beliefs of nearly every American, for Catholics, Protestants, Jews, Muslims, all could embrace the words of the psalmist, "The Earth is the Lord and the fullness thereof."

It is incredible to me now that the **environment** has for the first time in a generation become a source of political division. I just came from Wallington, and you know there are some people here from there. You heard from them earlier. There in the middle of a residential neighborhood the Vice President and I looked up a hill toward Jefferson Elementary School and then across a field that is a toxic waste site, the land that is being cleaned up under the Superfund law.

Not so very long ago there was a factory there that had been abandoned. It was an unsafe building, there were barrels full of unsafe chemicals. They were all taken away as evidence of the success of the law. The problem is the cleanup is not finished. There is still the fence topped with barbed wire that severs the nine-acre site from the rest of the community. And land within that fence remains contaminated with PCB's, which are known to cause cancer. Families can't walk there, children can't play there. This is a hole in that community, when it could be the source of a new, revitalized neighborhood.

The mayor said he wanted new housing for the people, he said perhaps senior citizens could live there. All that remains to be done is to finish the job of purging the soil of that site of the poisoned chemicals. I can't think of why we ought to tolerate this in Wallington, or anywhere else in the country. But listen to this: 10 million children under the age of 12 live within 4 miles of a toxic waste dump -- 10 million. In New Jersey alone there are 100 toxic hot spots that need to be cleaned up; 800,000 children live a mere bicycle ride away from these places. Well, this is America, my friends, and that's not good enough for me. It ought not to be good enough for you.

No child should have to live near a toxic waste dump. No child should have to drink water contaminated with chemicals. No child should have to eat food poisoned with pesticides. And I am determined that every child will have the safe and healthy future that every child should have as a God-given and a legal right in the United States of America.

Make no mistake about it, just as others have said before me, this has for a long time not been a political issue in the traditional sense. America is indeed a much cleaner and healthier place after a generation of bipartisan commitment to cleaning up the **environment**. Since our laws were put into place 25 years ago, toxic emissions from factories have been cut in half. Lead levels in children's blood have dropped 70 percent. Once, because it was so polluted, a river of ours caught on fire but no more, and Lake Erie, which was once declared dead, is now teeming with fish.

So should we say, well, since we've done all this, we can just treat this as an ordinary issue now and start fighting about it again? There is more to do. A third of us still breathe air that endangers our health. Our national parks are the envy of the world. But as the First Lady and our daughter and I found last summer when we visited two of those parks, they're still in need of repair and continued maintenance if they're going to remain the Nation's treasure. And in too many communities, the water is still not safe to drink.

We've worked hard on a broadbased environmental agenda. The Vice President has been of great inspiration to me in that. When I was a Governor, the preservation of the **environment** involved

things that I understood from my own experience. I was lucky enough to grow up in a national park surrounded by three lakes. I was never, I don't suppose in my whole childhood, more than 10 minutes away from the mountains and the woods and the creeks that became all too easy for me to take for granted. And when Hillary and I had our daughter, we loved to go to the State parks in our home State and to expose her to the world of natural beauty that I took as a given as a child.

Thanks to the Vice President, I've learned how all of this relates to things that are going on all over the world and how the phenomenon of global warming can radicalize our own weather patterns here in America and disrupt the future of America if we do not deal with the **environment** in a comprehensive way from the grassroots communities all the way up to the international issues. And that is what we are committed to doing.

In our agenda included expanding the community right-to-know law, which requires industries to tell our citizens what substances are being released into their air and their water. We're cutting toxic air pollution from chemical plants by 90 percent. Because of tougher clean air laws, 50 million Americans in 55 cities are now breathing easier. Stricter meat safety tests have dramatically reduced the chances of a child eating a hamburger with the lethal E. coli bacteria. Working with some of our countries best corporate citizens, we kicked dozens of dangerous chemicals out of the marketplace and quickly replaced them with safer substitutes.

And just as important as what we have done is how we're doing it. The laws and regulations that brought our **environment** back from the brink worked well for their time. But what worked yesterday may not work today or tomorrow. We believe in higher environmental standards, but we also believe in more partnership between environmentalists and people working in the private sector. We believe in more flexibility and more focus on results instead of rulemaking. We know that going through Washington may not be the only road to a safer and cleaner world.

And so under Carol Browner's leadership we're cutting paperwork at the EPA by 25 percent. We're working with the auto companies to develop a clean car, a partnership that could triple automobile mileage in the next few years and dramatically reduce toxic emissions into the air.

We're asking businesses and communities to work together. The EPA's new Project XL encourages responsible companies to find inexpensive, efficient ways to exceed pollution standards. And if they can, they can get rid of the rule book. We're interested in the results, not the rules.

Our commonsense initiative for small business emphasizes results, not punishment. If a small business makes a mistake and is committed to fixing that mistake, we will waive the fine if they repair the problem -- excuse me, my wife and daughter and I have been passing around the last cold of winter, you'll have to indulge me. This new way of doing business overturns the conventional wisdom that we have to somehow choose between the health of our **environment** and the health of our economy.

Look at the last 3 years. We have stepped up efforts to protect the **environment** in the last 3 years. We've also stepped up efforts to advance the economy. We have a cleaner **environment** and 8.4 million new jobs. You do not have to choose between the two.

It used to be said that if you had a commitment to a clean **environment** it would be especially burdensome for small businesses. Well, we not only have the lowest combined rates of employment and inflation in 27 years, we have set records in each of the last 3 years for new small business formation. It is a myth. You do not have to choose between the **environment** and the economy. Indeed, I submit to you that good environmental policy will grow the economy, especially the kind of good high-wage jobs we need more of in America.

Now, if this legacy of environmental protection has been good for all Americans and it's been bipartisan for 25 years and it clearly is not hurting our ability to generate jobs in a world where the other wealthy economies of the world are struggling, struggling to create jobs, why would we abandon 25 years of bipartisan commitment when there are new challenges that have to be met and

when, in fact, a lot of people who worry about their ability to have these good high-wage jobs in yesterday's economic organizations should be looking to tomorrow's environmental opportunities as a way to create those jobs? Why would we do that?

Because in the last year a small army of very powerful lobbyists literally have descended on Capitol Hill as if they owned the place. They have mounted a full-scale attack on our environmental laws and on our public health protections. Some in this Congress actually allowed these lobbyists to sit down at the table in the committee rooms and rewrite these important environmental laws, from gutting enforcement of clean air and clean water, to weakening community right-to-know, to selling off our great and precious store of public lands to the highest bidder, to tying up our enforcement agencies in litigation. This Congress has mounted the most aggressive anti-environmental campaign in our history. And I am proud that we have stood against that.

Now, because the Congress knew that the American people would never put up with an outright repeal of these laws, they also took another, more subtle, approach. They tried to take the environmental cop off the beat by simply cutting resources for health and safety protection. And I'm proud we stood against that, too.

We have fought off a lot this year, but you know and I know the fight is far from over. This budget impasse has been used by Congress, and this crazy way of running the Government by continuing resolution instead of a budget, to slowly and quietly keep the EPA from doing its job. The EPA is now operating at about a 15 percent cut from its last year's budget.

So what happens? They get what they want by indirection. The Agency is running behind on its inspections. There have been delays in putting in place safeguards to keep things like cryptosporidium out of our drinking water. Now, that's a big word, but you'll know what it is when I remind you that that's what killed all those people in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. We don't want it in our drinking water. We need to get it out and get it out now.

And cleanup has stoppe on more than 60 toxic waste sites around the country, including the one the Vice President and I just visited at Wallington. There are 14 in New Jersey, 17 in New York, and it is wrong. And if that weren't enough, the funding on the current continuing resolution runs out on Friday. And Congress again is threatening to shut down the Government for a third time unless I accept their drastic cuts in the **environment** and education, Medicare and Medicaid. Let me make something clear. It was wrong for them to shut down the Government the first time because I wouldn't accept the cuts. It was wrong the second time. And three wrongs on the **environment** do not make a right.

Let me remind all of you, my fellow Americans, without regard to your party, we can balance the budget in 7 years and protect the health and safety of our people. We have identified \$ 700 billion in savings common to both plans that will still per nit us to protect the **environment**, invest in education, protect Medicare and Medicaid, grow the economy, and get rid of the deficit. That is what we ought to do.

And in this budget I challenge Congress also to join me in adopting our brown fields initiative. The brownfields initiative encourages businesses and communities to turn old polluted sites into homes for safe and sustainable businesses. Now, this effort that we've had under way has already created jobs in 29 different communities. To include more of them, we have made it clear that brownfields purchasers will not be liable for the mess they inherited and neither will those who lend to them to finance the clean-up.

Today I'm proposing the next step in revitalizing these communities, a brown fields tax initiative for those who clean up and redevelop contaminated abandoned properties. A \$ 2 billion tax incentive targeted specifically to areas where the poverty rate is 20 percent or higher, to make it possible for brownfields investors to deduct their cleanup expenses immediately and cut the cost for this type of investment in half. That will bring jobs to the places that have missed out on this recovery.

This proposal is expected to spur \$ 10 billion in private investments nationwide, to return to productive use as many as 30,000 brownfields throughout the United States. It is fully paid for in my 7-year balanced budget. It is good for Americans, and I urge Congress to join me in making it happen.

Now this brown fields effort is only part of the larger picture of environmental efforts we are making. Look what I saw today in Wallington. We have to repair the Superfund toxic waste cleanup program. Superfund has been an important tool in helping us to protect the **environment**. In the past 16 years, toxic waste has been removed from more than 3,000 sites. And in the last 3 years, I am proud of the fact that our administration has completed more cleanups than in the previous 12 years. We need to keep doing this until the job is done.

My fellow Americans, we have reached the limit, unfortunately, of what we can do alone. We have to have help with Congress to cure the remaining problems with the Superfund. Small businesses and communities trapped in the liability net, lenders afraid to finance cleanups all these have to do with the way the law is written. And only Congress can change it. Only Congress can finish the job. They should do it the right way, by making sure, as Senator Lautenberg says, that polluters pay. Right now, Congress is moving forward with Superfund legislation that would let polluters off the hook and make the taxpayers pay. I don't think the taxpayers should pay when the polluters can pay. That is wrong.

All of you have been very patient to listen to us today make our plea for a new bipartisan commitment to the protection of the **environment**. But all of you here know that our ability to make America strong in the 21st century and to keep our people living in the place of greatest possibility in the world is clearly, clearly based on our ability to continue to make progress in the **environment**.

As President I take no particular pleasure in exercising the power of the veto. I like to get things done. I like to move things forward. I like to work with people who have different ideas in a positive way. But when it comes to protecting our air, our food, our water, I cannot sacrifice America's values and America's future, or America's health and safety. It is important to remember -- let me say again, as so many have said -- that this current state of affairs that we have endured for over a year now is a drastic aberration from the pattern of a previous generation.

When Jim Florio was in Congress working with Senator Lautenberg and Congressman Torrieelli and others on the Superfund legislation, people knew that these were things Republicans and Democrats did together because it was good for America. The natural blessings God gave this country were not given to Democrats or Republicans because of their political party. They were given to people who live on this particular piece of God's good Earth, and we had better go back to protecting them together.

Robert Frost once wrote, "The land was ours before we were the land. Our **environment** is fundamentally us. Its well-being is ours. And when we revitalize it we nourish our souls and restore our communities." I thank you for coming here today. thank you for your good citizenship. I ask you in this coming year to exercise that citizenship to make sure that when we leave this Earth it is cleaner and fresher and purer than we found it. That is our fundamental obligation.

Thank you, and God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:45 p.m. in the Rothman Center Auditorium at Fairleigh Dickinson University. In his remarks, he referred to Frank Mertz, president, Fairleigh Dickinson University, and Mayor John F. Zisa of Hackensack.

LOAD-DATE: April 16, 1996

Public Papers of the Presidents

Public Papers of the Presidents

January 10, 1996**CITE:** 32 Weekly Comp. Pres. Doc. 32**LENGTH:** 1977 words**HEADLINE:** Remarks Prior to a Cabinet Meeting and an Exchange With Reporters**BODY:**

The President. Hello, everybody. Is everyone in here? Well, first, let me say that we're having this Cabinet meeting to discuss the present status of our budget negotiations and where we are. As I have said all along, I am for balancing the budget in 7 years, but I want to protect the fundamental priorities of the American people and the future of the American people. We can balance a budget in 7 years, according to the Congressional Budget Office, without having dangerously low levels of commitment to Medicare and Medicaid, without having big cuts that undermine our commitments in education and the **environment**, without raising taxes on working families.

Now, that's what the Congress said they wanted. I've got this letter here from Congress, a letter from Congress to the Speaker saying that the budget we submitted in fact balances the budget in 7 years. The differences between these two budgets are now clear. We do not want to fundamentally change the commitment of the Medicare program to the health care of seniors. We do not want to fundamentally change the commitment of the Medicaid program to senior citizens, to poor children, to the disabled. We do not want to adopt a level of investment that makes it certain that we will have to turn our backs on the needs of education or the **environment**.

That is what this is all about. We can even have a modest tax cut for the American people, and for families especially, and balance the budget in 7 years according to the Congressional Budget Office. That's what this letter says. They agree now, so the only differences left between us are ideological differences.

And I said in the beginning, let me say again: If the objective is to get a 7-year balanced budget that Congress says is balanced, we can do that. If the objective is to get a modest tax cut, we can do that. If the objective is to dismantle the fundamental American commitments through Medicare and Medicaid or to undermine our obligations in education and the **environment**. I will not do that.

That is basically where it is.

Budget Negotiations

Q. Mr. President, it seems like that what's being said here today and also with what's being said on Capitol Hill, that despite all of the good will that was apparent here yesterday, this really was a breakdown in the talks. You're very far away, and it sounds like you're not getting any closer together in this break.

The President. We're not -- we're only very far away if you turn this into -- if you insist on a tax cut which requires unacceptable levels of cuts in education and the **environment** and Medicare and Medicaid or you insist on fundamentally changing those programs in ways that will erode the protections that Medicare and Medicaid now give to seniors and to poor children and to disabled people or you insist on cuts in education that will cut back on scholarships or Head Start or you insist on cuts which will really weaken our ability to protect the **environment**. If that's the deal, it's reconciling not only the level of cuts -- it's not just the money here, I want to emphasize that. It's the policy.

The Republicans -- if I might, let me just take Medicare for an example, just for example. The Republicans and I agree that there should be changes in the Medicare program to encourage more seniors to have more options to join managed care programs. And we agree on a number of other provisions that should be changed that will strengthen Medicare and give more options to our senior citizens.

I do not agree with changes that I think will, in effect, break up Medicare and put more and more seniors at the mercy of the present private insurance system so that the older and lower income and sicker you are, the more at risk you are. I don't want to do that.

So if we can work that out, we'll have an agreement. It's the same thing --

Q. Can you explain why --

Q. It seems like what you're talking about here really is a fundamental policy difference that is not going to be bridged and, for example, can you possibly accept the idea that Medicaid would no longer be an entitlement?

The President. No. No. But let me say this: More than my predecessors, my Republican predecessors, I have been for and I continue to be for giving the States far more flexibility in the way they run the programs. But I don't believe we should send a check, a Federal check to the States and say if you decide that you no longer want to provide health care to some poor children or some disabled people or some seniors who are getting it now, that's okay with us. I don't believe that.

There is a national interest -- a national interest -- in protecting the health care of our children, our seniors, our disabled population. And I believe the American people believe that.

In terms of letting the States have more flexibility to make the money go further, to do different things with it, to expand coverage in different ways, we have been on the forefront of that. That's what the Vice President's reinventing Government effort is about, that's what Secretary Shalala has done in giving all these waivers to States. We are willing to go much further there.

But let me ask -- I thought that we were supposed to be balancing the budget. We have agreed already, both sides have agreed to far more savings than are necessary to balance the budget in 7 years according to the Congressional Budget Office. That's what this little letter says here. That's what their letter says. Both sides have agreed.

If this is about balancing the budget, we could do it in 15 minutes tomorrow afternoon. The American people need to understand that. Congress now agrees. I have done this. I have given them a plan. It just simply does not have the dramatic changes in Medicare and Medicaid that I think will weaken our commitment to those folks, and it does not mandate cuts in education and the **environment** that are far larger than we could sustain. That would be -- we cannot take the discretionary account down so low that we know that we will not be able to protect education and the **environment**.

So that's where we are. We can balance the budget. It's very important that the American people understand that. We have agreed, the congressional leaders and I have agreed already to far more than enough reductions in Government spending to balance the budget within 7 years. We already have.

The issue here is over the policies involving Medicare, Medicaid, education, the **environment**, our opposition to raising taxes on the lowest paid working people and on the size and structure of the tax cut. This has nothing to do with balancing the budget anymore. Nothing.

We could balance the budget, literally, in 15 minutes tomorrow afternoon. And the Congressional Budget Office would say hooray. The financial markets would say hooray. Interest rates would drop. The economy would start to grow. Everything would be fine. Then we could have an election in 1996 about whether the American people agree with their view of Medicare or mine, with their view of

Medicaid or mine, with their view of our obligations in education and training of our work force and our children or mine, with their view of environmental protection or mine.

Now, that's what we ought to do. We can do this in 15 minutes. So when they express pessimism, it's because they don't believe that -- at least, maybe in the House and perhaps in the Senate as well -- that they can pass a balanced budget program that they, their own Congressional Budget Office will say is balanced, but doesn't further these ideological goals. We ought to have an election about that.

If we're going to walk away from the fundamental commitments of Medicare, we ought to have an election about that. We haven't had an election about that. If we're going to say that our children, because they are poor, are not entitled to the health care they would otherwise get or that middle class families that have disabled children who are now getting help will or will not get that help depending on who happens to be Governor of a given State, we ought to have an election about that.

And if we're going to say we're going to reduce the number of college scholarships, college loans, investments in our education system, investments in environmental protection, we ought to have an election about that. That is not what the '94 election was about, certainly not what the '92 election was about.

So let's come back here, balance a budget in 7 years, show the American people we can do it, get the economic benefits of doing it, and then have all 1996 to argue about these policies. That's the proper thing to do.

We have bent over backwards to reach good-faith, honorable, principled compromise, and we can still do that. And I don't understand what the problem is. We can even have a reasonably good-sized tax cut and do it. But there is a limit to how big the tax cut can be, and there certainly is a limit beyond which we cannot go in good conscience based on our priorities.

And let me just make one final statement. Ever since the Congress and I agreed to reopen the Government the first time, there was a resolution we passed -- we all agreed to it. It said that, finally, we would agree on a budget that was balanced in 7 years, that the Congress would say was balanced in 7 years, that protected our priorities, Medicare, Medicaid, education, and the **environment**, and that's what the resolution said.

From the next day, all I ever heard was, "Where is your budget that they say is scored?" As if they had no obligation at all to deal with the other parts of the resolution. Well, here it is. This is their letter.

Now, what we ought to do is honor the second part of the resolution. That resolution said we're going to put off the ideological battles until the next election. That resolution said, yes, we'll balance the budget in 7 years, but we will protect education and the **environment**, and Medicare and Medicaid. And all I'm trying to do now is honor the resolution that I signed off on when we had the first Government crisis a few weeks ago.

Q. Do you think they've deceived you, Mr. President, in their goals? Did they deceive you?

The President. No, no. I always told you what this is about. I said this weeks and weeks ago, months ago. I have not been deceived. But you know, we don't -- in a political system where one party, where even. I might say, one philosophy within one party does not have total control, sooner or later you have to ask yourself, are you going to make the perfect the enemy of the good?

You know, when the Democrats -- let me just give you an example. When the Democrats had the Congress in 1993 and '94, we passed the most sweeping education reform we've passed in 30 years. I did not agree with every last line in every one of those bills. But I did not make the perfect the enemy of the good. I said, I want the education reform.

We passed a crime bill after 6 years of people talking about it before I got here. I did not agree with every line in the crime bill, but I said -- and neither did the Attorney General. But we said, we're not going to make the perfect the enemy of the good. We're going to have a principled, honorable compromise. We passed the crime bill. We put over 30,000 police on the street, Crime is going down in America.

So I would plead with the Republicans to think about that, to look at the example. They can have an election over the biggest differences they have with me. Let's not make the perfect the enemy of the good. We have already agreed to enough spending cuts to balance the budget and to give a modest tax cut. Let us do it.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:24 p.m. in the Cabinet Room at the White House.

LOAD-DATE: August 09, 1996

Source: [All Sources](#) : / . . . / : **Public Papers of the Presidents** 

Terms: **headline (remarks) and atl 10 (environment) and date geq (12/21/1995)** ([Edit Search](#))

View: Full

Date/Time: Thursday, December 21, 2000 - 4:25 PM EST

[About LEXIS-NEXIS](#) | [Terms and Conditions](#)

[Copyright](#) © 2000 LEXIS-NEXIS Group. All rights reserved.