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DNC BUSINESS LEADERS FORUM
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TALKING POINTS

INTRODUCTION

* Thank you for your support of the Democratic Party and for helping keep California in the Democratic column in the Senate.

* Although the elections overall didn't turn out as well as we hoped this time, the President will continue to fight for his agenda and the principles he believes in. Progress will not be deterred because of one mid-term election. The President remains committed to his goal of empowering ordinary Americans with the tools to make their lives better, of rewarding responsibility with opportunity, and of making sure our nation doesn't turn its back on children or those in need.

* The President is also committed to communicating more clearly to the American people what his Administration has accomplished. One unfortunate reality of the election was that many Americans didn't focus on the Administration's accomplishments on the economy, crime, business, children's issues, and measures that will help keep families intact.

MY ROLE IS THE SAME AS IT HAS ALWAYS BEEN

* These days I get asked all the time what I'm going to do next, and my standard answer is that I'm the only part of government Al Gore hasn't had a chance to re-invent.

In all seriousness, I will continue to speak out for the causes that have occupied my time and energy for the past 25 years -- children, education, health, and all the ancillary issues that affect our young people. I have always believed that a great nation will not stay great if it doesn't invest in its most precious resource, its children. And I'm hopeful we can make progress on this front even with the political realignment in Congress.

I also will continue to work on health care reform, because it's a problem that isn't going to go away or get better.

WE MUST PROTECT THE PROGRESS WE HAVE MADE

* Whatever happens in Congress, and none of us can predict

exactly what will happen, your involvement remains crucial to our continued progress. Think for a minute about what we have been able to do in less than two years for this state alone:

TRADE

- NAFTA means more exports from California to Mexico.
- The elimination of trade barriers on computers and other electronic goods will boost the state's technology exports.

JOBBS

- The President's success in encouraging Saudi Arabia to purchase American airplanes will result in contracts supporting thousands of California jobs.

IMMIGRATION

- The Administration has implemented a smart, tough, and efficient border patrol program to curb illegal immigration and the federal government also is helping offset state incarceration costs.

CRIME

- The state will receive 10,000 new police officers under the crime bill.

ENVIRONMENT

- The California Desert Protection Act creates millions of acres of new national parkland in California, the largest addition of federal open space in over a decade.

ELECTIONS ARE PART OF A POLITICAL CONTINUUM

* At times like this it's important to remember that elections are part of a political continuum, a cycle of ups and downs that are never final. In the next two years, we will have to work harder to achieve our goals. And we will keep working until we reach them.

* Let's not be discouraged by the elections, but resolved to fight for what we believe in. This is a unique time in American history -- a period of transition when the world around us is undergoing enormous social, political and economic change.

* It's a time to rebuild -- to rebuild our vision of ourselves and our vision of our future. Let's not lose sight of where we are headed and how we ought to get there.

Thank you very much.

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CALIFORNIA ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE CLINTON ADMINISTRATION

Exports

- In order to boost the export of high value American products, President Clinton eliminated cumbersome export licensing requirements that restricted the export of computers, telecommunications equipment and other electronic goods. Barriers were eliminated on as much as \$37 billion in technology exports, 1/3 of which are manufactured in California.

- California benefits more than any other state from the enactment of NAFTA. The state reached \$6.6 billion in exports to Mexico in 1992.

- The administration's success in encouraging Saudi Arabia to purchase American airplanes will result in contracts supporting many thousands of jobs in California.

- This administration negotiated access to the lucrative Japanese rice market for the first time. We expect to sell 500,000 tons of American rice to Japan this year, most of which is grown in California, creating 900 jobs in agriculture and shipping.

Defense Transition Programs

- The Technology Reinvestment Program allocates approximately \$500 million annually to firms to aid them in finding commercial applications for their defense technologies. California projects have received about 1/3 of all funds awarded. With the required matching fund investments, these projects will generate billions of dollars in new high-tech economic activity in California.

- The Clinton Administration is expediting the transfer of military facilities to localities so that these bases can be developed for the economic benefit of surrounding communities. The President has already directed the Navy to transfer land from the Alameda Naval Supply Center for the expansion of the Port of Oakland, transferred the Presidio to the National Park Service, and approved the full transfer of San Bernardino County's Norton Air Force Base to the local community.

- Four military bases in California will house DFAS defense accounting centers, saving or creating 3,000 new jobs.

Immigration

- The administration's border control program, formalized as Operation Gatekeeper, will double the number of officers on the line in San Diego in this fiscal year. As a result of this initiative, border crossings have dropped dramatically, drawing praise from the conservative San Diego Union editorial board.

- Spending on services to immigrants (legal and illegal) increased by 32% from the last Bush budget request to the administration's FY 95 proposal. California receives over \$2 billion in additional funds from these augmentations.
- The administration proposed and won approval for a 6-year, \$1.8 billion program to offset state incarceration costs. The first installment has already been made, with California receiving 70% of the available funds.
- A 4-fold increase in the program to deport alien prisoners upon termination of their sentences will send thousands of felons back to their home countries faster and more cost effectively

L.A. Earthquake

- The administration moved rapidly to submit and obtain Congressional approval of a supplemental earthquake recovery appropriation of \$9.5 billion and agreed to pay 90% of reconstruction costs
- More benefits were delivered faster for this disaster than ever before, and freeways were repaired in record time. In the 1989 San Francisco earthquake, by comparison, the federal government paid only 75% of the damages and was roundly criticized for the slow pace of reconstruction efforts.
- The administration arranged federal guarantees for the state's share of costs-- virtually no state money was contributed to the earthquake recovery effort in the months following the disaster.
- HUD developed an innovative new program to finance reconstruction of apartment buildings in the San Fernando Valley "ghost towns" after the state bond measure designed to address this problem failed.

Grants and Projects

- Over \$7 billion in discretionary spending has been directed to California, including \$1.5 billion for the L.A. Metro Rail system, the largest transit grant given to any city.
- The Federal government is also funding new research institutions that will support California's strong scientific base.
- In October, President Clinton announced that the \$230 million Stanford Linear Accelerator (SLAC) is the preferred site for the location of a new high energy physics accelerator: the B-Factory.

- A San Jose enterprise was chosen to lead a national consortium to develop a new flat-panel display for use in a wide variety of electronics products.

- Last week, the Department of Energy announced a \$2 billion laser research project to be conducted at the Lawrence Livermore Laboratory. It will generate 1500 jobs in the Bay Area and perform important research to help the country observe the nuclear test ban treaty.

- San Diego's shipbuilding industry has received a substantial investment from both our domestic shipbuilding initiative and Defense Department contracts. Last week, the Navy announced the award of a \$500 million contract to build two new ships, securing 4,000 jobs through the year 2000.

- The administration fought hard to save the Space Station and C-17 aircraft program, preserving billions of dollars of economic activity and tens of thousand of jobs in California.

Crime

- California will receive over 10,000 new police officers from the administration's crime bill. The first installment has already been made, just weeks after the bill was signed.

Environment

- The California Desert Protection Act creates millions of acres of new national parkland in California, the largest addition of federal open space in over a decade.

- A new national park was created at the Presidio

- Ground was broken this summer on a \$52.5 million project to speed construction of a new facility to treat Mexican sewage. Under this proposal, the plant will open in 1995, three years earlier than envisioned by the prior administration.

- The administration's aggressive investment in and promotion of environmental technologies disproportionately benefits California firms, which lead the world in development and commercialization of environmental technology

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