

ARMS Email SystemRECORD TYPE: PRESIDENTIAL (NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: Meftah Yvette <meftah-yvette@dol.gov> (Meftah Yvette <meftah-yvette@dol.gov> [UNKNOWN])

CREATION DATE/TIME:21-SEP-1998 01:18:35.00

SUBJECT: Holbrooke comment from today....

TO: Mark Childress (CN=Mark Childress/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])

READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:
see below...

From: Lisa_J._Levin@who.eop.gov[SMTP:Lisa_J._Levin@who.eop.gov]
Sent: Monday, September 14, 1998 4:03 PM
To:
Subject: 1998-09/14 POTUS remarks to council on foreign relations

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary
(New York, New York)

For Immediate Release
1998

September 14,

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
TO THE COUNCIL ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Council on Foreign Relations Building
New York, New York

12:00 P.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much, Pete. Hillary and I are delighted to be here with you and Joan, and I'm glad to be joined by Secretary Rubin and Jim Harmon, Gene Sperling, other members of our team. I'm glad to see Dick Holbrooke over here. I hope, if we can overcome the inertia of Congress, he will soon be a member of the team again. (Applause.) And I thank David Rockefeller and Les Gelb and others who welcomed us here today.

The subject that I want to discuss -- let me just say one thing in advance -- I'm going to give you my best thoughts. We have been working on this for three years at some level of intensity or another,

going
back to the Naples G-7 meeting in the aftermath of the Mexican financial crisis. I have done everything I could do personally to reach out across the country, and indeed across the world, for any new ideas from any source. I'm going to give you my best thinking today about what we can do, but I want you to know that I'm here, and if I had my druthers, this would be about a three-hour session where I'd give this talk and then I would listen for the rest of the time.

So I want to encourage you, if you think we're right, to support us. But if you have any ideas, for goodness sake, share them, because I agree with what Pete said: this is the biggest financial challenge facing the world in a half-century. And the United States has an absolutely inescapable obligation to lead, and to lead in a way that's consistent with our values and our obligation to see that what we're doing helps lift the lives of ordinary people here at home and all around the world.

The Council on Foreign Relations has always stood for political and economic freedom, since right after World War I. And I think one of the things that has impacted all of us, and it was implicit in what Pete said, is that for the last decade the growth of freedom around the world, with more than half the people in the world living under governments of their own choosing, more than half the villages, the one million villages in China now, even electing their own governments, and this sweeping replacement of command and control economies by market economies. I think it seems to have happened so easily, so effortlessly, so inexorably, that I think we think the trend is inevitable and irreversible.

But if you consider today's economic difficulties, disruptions, and the plain old, deep, personal disappointments of now tens of millions of people around the world, it is clear to me that there is now a stark challenge not only to economic freedom, but, if unaddressed, a challenge that could stem the rising tide of political liberty as well.

Obviously we have profound interests here. It is a great irony that we are at a moment of unsurpassed economic strength at a time of such turmoil in the world economy. We, I

think all of us in this room, know that our future prosperity depends upon whether we can work with others to restore

confidence, manage change, stabilize the financial system, and spur robust global growth.

For most of the last 30 years, the United States and the rest of the world has been preoccupied by inflation, for reasons that all of you here know all too well -- and it was a good thing to be preoccupied with. Today the low and stable inflation we enjoy has been critical to our economic health, and low inflation has also contributed to that of many other nations as well. But clearly the balance of risks has now shifted, with a full quarter of the world's population living in countries with declining economic growth or negative economic growth.

Therefore, I believe the industrial world's chief priority today, plainly, is to spur growth. It seems to me there are six immediate steps we should take to help contain the current financial turmoil around the world, and then two longer-term projects in which we must be involved.

To take the immediate first, we must work with Japan, Europe, and other nations to spur growth. Second, we will expand our efforts to enable viable businesses in Asia to emerge from crippling debt burdens so they can once again contribute to growth and job creation. Third, we've asked the World Bank to double its support for the social safety net in Asia to help people who are innocent victims of financial turmoil. Fourth, we'll urge the major industrial economies to stand ready to use the \$15 billion in IMF emergency funds to help stop the financial contagion from spreading to Latin America and elsewhere. Fifth, our Ex-Im Bank, under the leadership of Jim Harmon, will intensify its efforts to generate economic activity in the developing world immediately, in the next three months. And sixth, Congress must live up to its responsibility for continued prosperity by meeting our obligations to the International Monetary Fund.

Secretary Rubin has been working with his counterparts in the G-7 to get cooperative support for several of these measures. I understand Chairman Greenspan is also consulting with his counterparts on these items as well.

As we take these immediate steps, we also must intensify our efforts to reform our trade and financial institutions so that they can respond better to the challenges we now face and those we are likely to face in the future. We must build a stronger and more accountable global trading system, pressing forward with market-opening initiatives, but also advancing the protection of labor and environmental interests, and doing more to ensure that trade helps the lives of ordinary citizens across the globe.

Above all, we must accelerate our efforts to reform the international financial system. Today I have asked Secretary Rubin and Federal Reserve Board Chairman Greenspan to convene a major meeting of their counterparts within the next 30 days to recommend ways to adapt the international financial architecture to the 21st century.

Over the past six years, our strategy at home of fiscal discipline, investment in the skills of our people, and open trade has worked for all Americans. Unemployment at a 28-year low, inflation a 32-year low, wages rising at twice the rate of inflation after decades of stagnation. And on October 1st we'll have the first balanced budget in 29 years.

But the global economy brought a lot of that prosperity to us, and now fast-moving currents have brought or aggravated problems in Russia and Asia. They threaten emerging economies from Latin America to South Africa. With a quarter of the world's population in declining growth, we must recognize what Chairman Greenspan said the other day: we cannot forever be

an oasis of prosperity. Growth at home depends upon growth abroad. A full 30 percent of our growth, just since I became President, has been due to our expanding positive involvement in the global economy.

That's why ordinary Americans should care if Asia or Russia or South America is on solid economic footing. These people are our customers. With one-third of the growth of our economy coming from exports, much of it from emerging markets, we know that those markets will falter as their economies flatten. When the problem is widespread and perceived to be moving in the wrong direction, we have seen that our stock market can react, having a direct and immediate impact on the wealth of the American people.

These nations are also our competitors. And under conditions of decent equilibrium that is a very good thing, indeed. But when their currencies drop precipitously, the prices of their goods fall, they could undercut the sales of our own goods here at home that are otherwise profitable, dramatically increasing our trade deficit under circumstances that could cause the American people to turn away from open trade toward protectionism in a way that has terrific negative consequences long-term for our global growth objectives.

Finally, these nations are our friends, our allies and our security partners. Where economic turmoil plunges millions into sudden poverty and disrupts and disorients the lives of ordinary people, the risks of political and social instability and of a turn from democracy clearly rise. Just look at Russia. Russia is facing an economic crisis that threatens

the extraordinary progress the Russian people have made in just seven years, building a new society from the ground up. The ruble and the stock market have plummeted, banks are weak, tax collections have slowed, the government has trouble paying its debts and its salaries.

Some Russians have become wealthy, but many, many more are struggling to provide for their families. I talked to some of them when I was in Russia just a few days ago.

Amid such political uncertainty and economic difficulty, some now talk of abandoning the path of reform and returning to policies of the past, even policies that have already failed. At worst, adversity in Russia could affect not only the Russian economy and prospects for our economic cooperation -- at worst, it could have an impact on our cooperation with Russia on nuclear disarmament, on fighting terrorism and the spread of weapons of mass destruction, on standing together for peace, from the Balkans to the Middle East.

Now Russia has a new Prime Minister, Mr. Primakov, who's been in office a grand total of four days. He and President Yeltsin face one of the great challenges of their time. Never has there been a more important moment to set a clear direction for the future, to affirm the commitment of Russia to democracy and to free markets, and to take decisive steps to stabilize the economy and restore investor confidence.

But if Russia is willing to take these steps, we must do everything we can to provide support to them. Because again I say, as long as ordinary people don't feel any benefits from this, in the end it's going to be difficult to sustain the direction we think the world should take.

On the other hand, we need to be honest with Russia and everyone else. No nation, rich or poor, democratic or authoritarian, can escape the fundamental economic imperatives of the global market. No nation can escape its discipline. No nation can avoid its responsibility to do its part.

But since all economies are increasingly interdependent, fear and uncertainty about the economy of one country can prompt investors to pull money out of other countries thousands of miles away. Markets work best when they are driven neither by excessive inflows or outflows of capital based on indiscriminate optimism or pessimism.

Regardless of what changes in policies or institutions may be warranted, we have to say we'll only be able to help those countries who are willing to help themselves. If a nation chooses to print money indiscriminately, to wink at cronyism or corruption, to hide bad loans and protect corrupt or

inefficient banks, then investors, foreign and domestic, sooner or later, will withdraw their investments, with consequences both swift and severe.

That is why we support the fundamental approach of the International Monetary Fund to extend assistance only when nations have taken responsibility, strengthening their banking systems, introducing honest accounting and open markets, awarding credit on merit instead of connections.

Still, what has been done is clearly not enough to reverse the decline in particular countries, to douse the flames of the international financial crisis, to support steady and sustainable growth in the future. In the face of this new challenge, America can and must continue to act and to lead to take the urgent steps needed today to calm the financial crisis, restart the engine of growth in Asia, and minimize the impact of financial turmoil on other nations, and to make certain that for tomorrow the institutions and rules of international finance and international trade are prepared to support steady and sustainable growth over the long term.

First and foremost, the leading economic nations must act together to spur global growth. Our strong and growing economy here has made a major contribution to global growth, just as our weak economy was holding the world back six years ago when I attended my first G-7 meeting in Tokyo and every other country said, the first thing they needed was for America to put its economic house in order. We did that.

Now I believe strongly we must maintain our fiscal discipline. It has led to lower interest rates and a huge investment and job growth. Maintaining economic growth is the best thing we can do right now, not only for the United States but for the global economy.

I would also remember that back in 1993 we had a general agreement that what was needed was America should get rid of its deficit, Europe should lower its interest rates, and Japan should open its markets. There was this general agreement that if we did all those things, we would have a remarkable resumption of growth.

Europe did moderate its interest rates and the then prime minister -- now the finance minister -- Mr. Miyazawa, oversaw a significant market opening trade agreement between the United States and Japan, which also benefited others, not just us. And of course we got rid of our deficit. The results were quite satisfactory for several years for us.

Now Europe has to continue to pursue policies that will spur growth and keep their markets open because they, too, must be able to provide markets for Asian goods as those nations seek to find their footing. But the key here is Japan, for the

second largest economy in the world, by far the biggest economy in Asia, has now gone several years without any economic growth. Thank goodness, a lot of their ordinary citizens have been able to maintain a decent life because of the wealth of their country and probably because of the enormous personal savings rate they

have enjoyed for many, many years now.

But it is difficult to see how any actions of the world community can be successful in restoring growth in Asia in the absence of the restoration of growth in Japan, which would enable Japan to lead the region out of its present condition. Therefore, we must support Japan and do everything we can to help create the conditions in which, together, we can all lead again, just as we did in 1993.

Their challenges are quite formidable. They have to spur domestic demand, revive a banking system, restore confidence, deregulate the economy, and open markets. And we all know all the forces that seem to be working against these developments in Japan. But I would remind you that this is a very strong, sophisticated nation full of people of knowledge and enormous achievement. It is fully capable of playing its world leadership role. I believe its business leaders right now know what needs to be done and would support it.

Next week I'm going to meet with Prime Minister Obuchi here in New York to discuss how America can support Japan's efforts to restore economic growth and investor confidence. And I will do everything I can to try to make sure that as we go forward, we have America, Europe, and Japan all doing our part to get beyond this present moment, just as we did back in 1993.

The second step we should take is to intensify our efforts to speed economic recovery in Asia. When countries like South Korea and Thailand have taken strong and responsible steps, the freefall has ended, progress is being made. But the human cost of Asia's collapse is only now being fully felt. Recent press reports have described an entire generation working its way into the middle class over 25 years, then being plummeted into poverty within a matter of months. The stories are heartbreaking -- doctors and nurses forced to live in the lobby of a closed hospital; middle class families who own their own homes, sent their children to college, traveled abroad, now living by selling their possessions.

It is in our interest to help these nations and these people recover. They will become once again our great markets and our great partners. It is also the right thing to do. We've worked with international lenders, like the IMF, to help these nations to adopt pro-growth budget, tax, and monetary policies, but clearly we're going to have to do more to restore Asian growth. We must work to lift the weight of private sector

debt that has frozen the Asian economies.

Today, I'm asking Secretary Rubin to work with other financial authorities and international economic institutions to enhance efforts to explore comprehensive plans to help Asian corporations emerge from massive debt where individual firms have been swept under by systemic, national economic problems, rather than their own errors. We need to get credit flowing again. We need to get business back to making products, producing services, creating jobs.

Third, Asian businesses need assistance, but so do millions of Asian families. We must do more to establish an adequate social safety net in recovering nations. Wrenching economic transition without an adequate social safety net can sacrifice lives in the name of economic theory, and, I might add, can generate thereby so much resistance that reform grinds to a halt. If we want these countries to do tough things, we have to protect the most defenseless people in the society and we have to protect people who get hurt when they didn't do anything wrong. I think that is terribly important.

With our support, the World Bank and the Asian

Development Bank have started to deal with these challenges, but they have to expand their efforts. There is simply not enough being done. I asked them to double their aid through an expanded social compact initiative focusing on job assistance, basic needs and economic transition, on children and the elderly, on groups most vulnerable to economic change. And I want to commend Jim Wolfensohn for his efforts and his willingness to lead this expanded initiative. We have to be ready to respond immediately with financial force if necessary, to the currency crisis, if it spreads, especially if it threatens the economies of Latin America, where nations have struggled to make progress to do the right thing, only to find themselves buffeted by economic storms outside their control.

Therefore, the major economies should stand ready to activate the \$15 billion now in the emergency funds of the IMF, the general agreement to borrow, to ensure that the IMF continues to support reform and fight economic contagion.

Fifth, our Export-Import Bank will increase its commitments to specific economic development projects over the next three years -- three months -- projects which will have concrete benefits for ordinary citizens in other countries, projects which will increase our own exports and thereby help our economy, and ones which can help to restore confidence in countries that they are not alone and that actual, specific, positive developments can occur.

Sixth, for the effort of the international community

to succeed, America simply must meet its own obligations to the International Monetary Fund. After a year of financial firefighting, the IMF's resources are badly strained. Every day we don't act, we undermine the confidence the world badly needs that we are trying to restore. Congress simply must assume its responsibility for our leadership in the economy.

In my State of the Union address, I said it was better to prepare for a storm when the skies were clear than when the clouds were overhead. Well, eight months later, the clouds are closer, and you can nearly hear the thunder. Now, the Senate, by an overwhelming bipartisan majority, has, thankfully, approved our obligation to fund our part of the International Monetary Fund. But with only five weeks left in this congressional session, there is still no action from the House of Representatives.

Let me put this as plainly as I can: failure by this Congress to pay our dues to the IMF will put our own prosperity at risk. Failure to act will send a sharp signal that at a time of economic challenge, our lawmakers were unwilling to protect our workers, our businesses, our farmers from the risks of global economic change, and unwilling to maintain our leadership in building a global economy system that has benefited us more than any other nation.

Concerted action to spur growth, helping Asia through private sector debt restructuring, and a strengthened social safety net, helping to protect the rest of the world through the use of the IMF's emergency fund, increasing the activity of the Ex-Im Bank, and meeting our own obligations to the IMF -- these are the six immediate steps we want to take.

But we must also be willing to take action for the long run -- to modify the financial and trading institutions of the world to match the realities of the new economy they serve. By creating the WTO, the World Trading Organization, in 1994, we began to build a modern trading system. We must redouble our efforts to tear down barriers around the world. But as I said in Geneva last May, we must do more to ensure that spirited economic competition among nations never becomes a race to the bottom -- in environmental protection, consumer protection, or labor

standards.

We are working to open the procedures of the WTO to participation by the public and the full range of affected interests, so that people will know and see and be able to do for themselves things which will ensure that the trading system makes the world better for all the people in all the countries.

We've already completed 260 trade agreements, opening markets in areas from autos to telecommunications. Next

year we will host the meeting of the world's trade ministers to set the agenda for expanded trade in the first decade in the new century.

History teaches us that at a time of worldwide difficulty, it would be folly to retreat into a protectionist shell. We must keep trade flowing among nations, but I will say again, if we want to do that, we have got to give ordinary citizens and the groups that represent them in countries all over the world the sense that it is going to be done in a fair way, consistent with nations' obligations to advance the interests of their working people and protect not only their national, but the global environment.

This November, when I meet with the leaders of the Asian economies at the APEC meeting, we will move forward to further open markets in Asia. And when Congress returns next year, I will work to pass legislation to open markets further --from trade negotiating powers to the African Trade Initiative. I will do so in a way that I believe will win broad support from a majority of both parties.

From the G-7 meeting in Halifax in 1995 in the wake of the Mexican financial crisis, to the Birmingham meeting this year, we have been working, also, with our major economic partners to plan for new financial architecture for the 21st century.

For the first time, this year we included key emerging markets in the process in a new Group of 22, recognizing their important stake in the global economy. This group has been working together for nearly a year now to improve the global financial assistance with a special focus on improving financial sectors, on transparency, and on private sector burden sharing.

I just want to emphasize again that even as we respond to the urgent alarms of the moment, we must speed the pace of this systemic work as well. That is why I have asked Secretary Rubin and Chairman Greenspan to convene the finance ministers and central bankers of the G-7 and key emerging economies in Washington within 30 days to develop a preliminary report to the heads of state by the beginning of next year on strengthening the world financial system.

We must develop policies so that countries can reap the benefits of free-flowing capital in a way that is safe and sustainable. We must adapt the IMF so that it can more effectively confront the new types of financial crises, minimizing their frequency, severity, and human cost. We need to consider ways to extend emergency financing when countries are battling crises of confidence due to world financial distress as distinct from their own errors in policy. We must find ways to tap the energy of global markets without sentencing the world to a cycle of continued extreme crises.

For half a century now in our national economy, we have learned not to eliminate but to tame and limit the swings of boom and bust. In the 21st century, we have to find a way to do that in the global economy as well.

I've discussed this in recent days with Prime

Minister Blair of Great Britain, who is now the Chair of the G-7. He shares my belief that this is an urgent task. It is critical to the mission that he and I and Prime Minister Prodi of Italy will be discussing next week at the New York University Law School in a very interesting meeting that the First Lady and others in our administration helped to organize on how to extend

the benefits of the world economy to all and how to strengthen democracy in a time of such sweeping economic change.

Now, let me just say it all again very briefly: in short, we must improve our ability to address the current financial emergency, and we must build a system to prevent such future emergencies, whenever possible, and to blunt their impact when they do occur. There is no mission more critical to our own strength and security.

And let me say this again, what is at stake is more than the spread of free markets and their integration into the global economy. The forces behind the global economy are also those that deepen democratic liberties: the free flow of ideas and information, open borders and easy travel, the rule of law, fair and even-handed enforcement, protection for consumers, a skilled and educated work force.

Each of these things matters not only to the wealth of nations but to the health of freedom. If citizens tire of waiting for democracy and free markets to deliver a better life for them, there is a real risk that democracy and free markets, instead of continuing to thrive together, will begin to shrivel together. This would pose great risks not only for our economic interests but for our security.

We see around the world the international aggressors, the harborers of terrorists, the drug lords. Who are these countries? They're authoritarian nations without democracy and without open markets. Nations that give their people freedom are good neighbors; when nations turn away from freedom, they turn inward toward tension, hatred, and hostility.

We now have a chance to create opportunity on a worldwide scale. The difficulties of the moment should not obscure us to the advances of the last several years. We clearly have it within our means, if we do the right things, to lift

billions and billions of people around the world into a global middle class and into participation in global democracy and genuine efforts toward peace and reconciliation. That is a possibility, but recent events show it is not a certainty.

At this moment, therefore, the United States is called upon once again to lead -- to organize the forces of a committed world; to channel the unruly energies of the global economy into positive avenues; to advance our interests, reinforce our values, enhance our security.

In this room, I think it is not too simple to say we know what to do. The World War II generation did it for us 50 years ago. Now, it is time for us to rise to our responsibility, as America has called upon to do so often so many times in the past. We can, if we do that, redeem the promise of the global economy and strengthen our own nation for a new century.

Thank you very much. (Applause.)

END

12:34 P.M. EDT

ARMS Email SystemRECORD TYPE: PRESIDENTIAL (NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: Mindy E. Myers (CN=Mindy E. Myers/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])

CREATION DATE/TIME:21-SEP-1998 08:49:01.00

SUBJECT: 1998-09/19 POTUS remarks to Cng. Black Caucus

TO: Janet Murguia (CN=Janet Murguia/OU=WHO/O=EOP @ EOP [WHO])

READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

a daily inspiration . . . marvelous staff . . . what next?

----- Forwarded by Mindy E. Myers/WHO/EOP on 09/21/98

08:47 AM -----

OLCOTT_E @ A1

09/19/98 11:25:00 PM

Record Type: Record

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

cc:

Subject: 1998-09/19 POTUS remarks to Cng. Black Caucus

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

September 19, 1998

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
TO THE CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS

Washington Convention Center
Washington, D.C.

10:17 P.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much. You know, Maxine Waters would be so much more effective as the chair of the Congressional Black Caucus if she weren't so shy and retiring -- (laughter) -- so reluctant to express her opinion. (Laughter.)

Thank you, my friends, for years of friendship. Thank you for the work we began back in 1991. To the chair of the dinner, Congressman Clyburn, and the chair of the foundation, Congresswoman Clayton -- and congratulations on your recent outstanding primary victory -- (applause) -- to the dean of this caucus and a great fighter for the American way, John Conyers, thank you. (Applause.)

To two great lions of the century we are about to end, Rosa Parks and Dr. Dorothy Height. (Applause.) To three great friends of mine who have left or are now leaving the Congress, Ron Dellums, Floyd Flake, and Louis Stokes, I echo everything the Vice President said about you. (Applause.)

And to the family of Congressman Charles Diggs Jr., I thank you for giving the awards to Secretary Herman and Secretary Slater, to Frank Raines and Congressman Rush and the other winners who have given so much to our country.

I thank the members of our administration who are here tonight: Attorney General Reno, Secretary Cuomo, SBA Administrator Alvarez. To the marvelous White House staff members who are here: Minyon Moore, Goody Marshall, Maria Echaveste, Bob Nash, Janice Kearney, Ben Johnson, Al Maldon, Tracey Thornton, Cheryl Mills, Judith Winston, Betty Currie, Janet Murguia, and goodness knows who else is here -- they hate to miss this dinner. To all the members of the administration who are here, along with all the members of the caucus, I thank you.

After the speeches which have been given, the outstanding remarks of the Vice President -- and let me say one thing about him. I sometimes regret that one of the burdens of being Vice President is having to brag on the President and never getting to brag on himself. Many things will be said -- good and perhaps some not so good -- about this administration. One thing that will never be in question is that in the history of our republic no person has ever

held the office of Vice President who had more influence on more decisions and did more good in more areas for more people in this country than Vice President Al Gore. (Applause.)

I have a speech I want to give, but first I'd like to say something from the heart. I want to thank you for standing up for America with me. (Applause.) I want to thank you for standing up for me and understanding the true meaning of repentance and atonement. (Applause.) I want to thank you for standing up consistently for people over politics, for progress over partisanship, for principle over power, for unity over division. I want to thank you for standing up, beyond race, for the very best in America. I am very, very grateful. (Applause.)

I am grateful for what the Congressional Black Caucus has done for the past 28 years to expand and enhance the promise of America and to lead our country toward a single shining ideal, perhaps captured best in that wonderful phrase from John Lewis' autobiography, "the beloved community" -- one that dwells not on difference but instead gains strength from expanding diversity; one rooted in humane laws and generous spirits in which all children's talents are matched by their opportunities; in which all Americans join hands and, in John's words, courageously walk with the wind.

God knows your journey has not been easy. The winds have often blown bitter and cold. But always this caucus has walked with the wind. (Applause.)

Today, because of the long road you have walked, the house we call America is safer and stronger than ever. As I think back on what we have done together in the last five and a half years, I think of these things. We cut taxes for 15 million hard-working families through the earned income tax credit, and when the Republicans tried to slash it we said no. We increased the minimum wage to give 10 million Americans a well-deserved raise. And now we're trying to increase it again in a way that would affect 12 million of our fellow citizens, to ensure that people who work full time can raise their children out of poverty and that all people share in the bounty of our present prosperity.

Together we fought for and won the biggest increase in children's health care in more than three decades. It can add insurance, health insurance to 5 million children in working families across this country. (Applause.) We expanded the Head Start program to help our children get off on the right foot and we're going to expand it some more. We made it possible for nearly 2 million more women and infants to get the nutritional care they need. With the Family and Medical Leave Act, we gave millions of people the chance

to take time off from work to care for an ailing parent or bond with a newborn child.

We have opened the doors of higher education with the HOPE Scholarship, with more Pell Grants, with tax credits for all higher education, with the deductibility of student loans. We have done that for every single qualified American who's willing to work for it. Money can no longer be considered an insurmountable obstacle. And you did that. You should be very, very proud. (Applause.)

Together with the Vice President's leadership, we created more than 100 empowerment zones and enterprise communities, established community development banks, doubled small business loans to minorities and tripled them to women. When people wanted to scrap affirmative action we said: mend it, don't end it. (Applause.) Because we believe the best investment in America makes us all stronger.

Together we shaped and passed the historic crime bill, overcoming immense pressure with the Brady Bill, the assault weapons ban, more police on our streets and, yes, more prevention for our children to keep them out of trouble in the first place.

Now, look what you have done: nearly 17 million jobs, the lowest unemployment rate in 28 years, the lowest African American and Hispanic unemployment rates in a generation, the lowest African American poverty rate since statistics have been kept, the fastest real wage growth in 20 years, a record number of new small businesses every year, violent crime down six years in a row, and the lowest crime rate in 25 years. None of this could have happened without the leadership, the friendship, the ideas of the Congressional Black Caucus. (Applause.)

And I thank the Vice President for his litany of our African American appointments and for pointing out -- in a phrase I will steal the first chance I get -- that we are not successful in spite of our diversity; we are successful because of it. We can never say that enough. That is the truth and America is better because all Americans can feel a part of this administration. (Applause.)

Now, here's the real question: what are we to do with this treasured moment of prosperity and progress? What are we to do with our resources? What are we to do with the self-confidence it has generated in America? Some people think that now is the time to kick back and relax. Others seem to think they can play games with our future with some of the proposals now before the Congress. I say we can look back a long way to the book of Genesis to see what we should do.

Remember Joseph? What did he do in a time of plenty?

He did not rest. When people thought he was too farsighted and too burdensome, he instructed them to stockpile rich bounties of grain *like sand to the sea*. He knew the times of plenty had to be the busiest, the most productive, the most determined times of all. Wisdom and history teach us that in times of prosperity we need to be more visionary, more vigorous, more determined to deal with the long-term challenges before us, and that we will only pay a price if we indulge ourselves in idleness or distractions.

I say we cannot rest until we save Social Security for the 21st century. (Applause.) Remember what we are facing today. In 1993, it was projected that the deficit would be about \$300 billion and rising. In just a few days, a little more than a week, we'll have the first balanced budget and surplus in 29 years. (Applause.) Ninety-two percent -- ninety-two percent of the gap was closed by the votes of members of this caucus and our party without any help. Then we did have a bipartisan balanced budget bill that had, thanks to your efforts, the health care and education initiatives I mentioned.

So now we are going to have a surplus because of the hard work and productivity of the American people. Some say it's just a few weeks before the election, we ought to have a tax cut. I'm not against tax cuts. This year, in the balanced budget bill, the American people will get, most of them, a \$500 tax credit for every child at home; the HOPE Scholarship and other credits for college education; the right to withdraw from an IRA without penalty for education, for health care, for buying a first-time home. That's a good thing. But they're paid for in the balanced budget.

And in my budget there are more tax cuts. There are tax cuts for education, to build and repair old schools; tax cuts to help families with the cost of child care; tax cuts to help small businesses take out pensions for their employees who don't have them today. But every one of them is paid for in the balanced budget. By the time the baby boomers like me -- and I'm the oldest of them -- that's hard to say. (Laughter.) By the time we retire, all of us in the baby boom generation, 18 years of us, there will only be about two people working for every one person drawing Social Security if the predictions are right.

Now, we have three choices. Number one, we can do nothing and wait until the crash comes, because the present system is not sustainable, and then we can simply cut the living standards of our seniors. For people like me it will be fine; I'll have a good pension. But don't forget, half the people in this country over 65 today are out of poverty because of Social Security. Or we can wait until that day comes and we can say, we can't do that to our parents and grandparents, so we can just simply raise the taxes a lot on the working families of this country to maintain the system just exactly as it is. And in so doing, people like me will have to face the prospect that we've lowered the standard of living of our children and our children's ability to raise our grandchildren. Or we can say if we start now with a sensible, modest proposal, we can save Social

Security and save the future for our children and grandchildren. I don't think it's even close and I don't think you do either. (Applause.)

But that means we can't rest; we have to work. We can't rest until all the children in all the communities have a world-class education. We have a budget before the Congress to hire 100,000 more teachers; to take those class sizes in the early grades down to 18; to rebuild or modernize 5,000 schools; to hook all the classrooms in the poorest schools, too, up to the Internet by the year 2000; to reward the school districts that are trying to reform and help kids -- like Chicago, where there are so many kids in summer school it's the sixth biggest school district in America and over 40,000 kids get three square meals a day there; to hire 35,000 more teachers by paying their way through college and saying you can pay your student loan off if you'll go into the inner-city or into another underserved area and teach our kids who need it -- (applause) -- by passing Congressman Fattah's High Hopes proposal so that we can have the ability to mentor kids in junior high school and tell them, if you'll stay out of trouble, stay in school, learn your lessons, we will tell you right now you will be able to go on to college and here's how much money you will get to make sure it gets done. That's what we have to do. We cannot rest; we have work to do. (Applause.)

We can't rest until we pass that patients' bill of rights. Now, that sounds like a high-flown term. Here's what it means. It means that with 160 million Americans in managed care systems, we still don't think an accountant ought to be making a decision a doctor should make. (Applause.) We believe if somebody walks out of this dinner tonight and, God forbid, is in a car accident, they ought to be able to go to the nearest emergency room, not one five or six miles away because it happens to be covered by the plan. We believe if somebody needs a specialist and their doctor says they need a specialist, they ought to be able to get a specialist and not be told no. (Applause.)

We believe if a woman is six months pregnant and her insurance plan changes carriers, her employer, they ought not to be able to tell her to get a different obstetrician until after the baby is born. That's what we believe. (Applause.)

And we believe the other party's bill is wrong for America, because it doesn't guarantee any of these rights. It enables people to invade the privacy of your records even more, and it leaves 100 million Americans out. We cannot rest; we have work to do. (Applause.)

We cannot rest while HIV and AIDS is escalating in the African American community. Secretary Shalala just announced the first installment of a comprehensive prevention, education, and care plan in the African American community. Working with Maxine Waters, Lou Stokes, and others in the CBC, we can and we must do more. But we're only two weeks away from this budget year, and Congress has still not passed the health budget. We cannot rest; we have work to

do.

We cannot rest until we eliminate the unacceptable disparities in health that racial and ethnic minorities experience in America today. (Applause.) We are not one nation when it comes to infant mortality, heart disease, and prostate cancer for African Americans. It is nearly double the rate for white Americans.

There are other problems that Hispanics and Asians and other minorities have. That is why I challenged the nation to eliminate these disparities by 2010, and asked Congress to pass \$400 million to achieve this goal. Almost time for the new budget year, it still hasn't passed yet. We cannot rest; we have work to do. (Applause.)

Let me say this. The unemployment rate, the poverty rates, all those rates you hear about the African American population, they're true. But they disguise a fact that is unacceptable -- there are still disparities. We cannot rest until every community, every neighborhood, every block, every family has the chance to reap the benefits of our economic growth. That is why we have to fund the empowerment initiatives that the Vice President and Secretary Cuomo have worked so hard for, to provide housing assistance for those leaving welfare and entering work, to expand funding for the community development banks, to step up enforcement of fair housing laws, to revitalize more urban brownfield areas, and to restore summer jobs for our young people. (Applause.) We're less than two weeks away from a new budget year and that has not been passed yet. We cannot rest; we have work to do.

We cannot rest while any communities are thoroughly segregated by income or by race. The federal government should lead the way in word and deed. I have directed Secretary Cuomo to seek a major legislative overhaul in the admission policy for public housing, to deconcentrate poverty, mix incomes, and thereby mix racial balances for Americans.

Tonight I ask all of you to send a clear message to Congress with me: don't send me a public housing bill that doesn't include our admission reforms -- reforms that will make public housing a model of one America in the 21st century. (Applause.) And I might add, we're less than two weeks away from a new budget year and I still don't have the increase I asked for in the budget of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. We cannot rest; we have work to do. (Applause.)

And let me say one or two more words about this census. We can't rest until we have a fair one. Listen to this. In 1990, about 4.5 percent of African Americans were not counted. In Los Angeles County alone, nearly 40,000 African American children were left out. This has enormous consequences for how we distribute the bounty of America, for how we draw our political distinctions, for the policies that we follow. This is a fundamental issue. This is a civil rights issue. Why? Why would the Republican leadership in

Congress refuse methods of counting that even -- listen to this -- that even Republican experts say is the best way to count all Americans. We must count every American for one simple reason: every American counts. We cannot rest; we have work to do on this census issue. (Applause.)

We cannot rest until we act as leaders to contain the global financial and economic crisis that grips Russia and Asia. Why? Because a third of our own economic growth in these last years has come from our trade with other nations. We have to try to build an adequate trade and financial system for a new century that takes into legitimate account the interests of working people, the interest of the environment, the interest all countries have in avoiding depressions and unusual boom and bust cycle. Why? Because it is in our interests in a world growing ever smaller to keep people free and give them a chance to work their way to prosperity, and because we can't be an island of prosperity in a sea of failure, as Alan Greenspan said so eloquently the other day.

That means we've got to help the International Monetary Fund put out these economic fires across the world by paying our fair dues. It's in our interest to help emerging countries -- in Africa, in Latin America, in Asia. Hillary and I saw the African renaissance with many of you this past spring -- a trip that changed me forever. Across the continent I saw hope rising, business growing, democracy gaining strength. Yes, I saw profound, continuing problems and enormous challenges, but I saw in the bright eyes of children and the stern resolve of their parents the potential of a wonderful future.

We have to work together to see that Africa's children, like America's, have a democratic, peaceful, prosperous future; to expand trade and partnership by passing our Africa trade bill; to deal effectively with the violent conflicts that continue to plague Africa today and threaten its future. To ensure that Africa's hospitality is not used to perpetuate acts of terrorism, as it was so terribly in the bombings in Kenya and Tanzania. I have asked Dr. David Satcher, our Surgeon General, to go to East Africa this month with a team of medical experts to do what they can to help people who are still ailing there.

There is still no action in Congress, after all these months, on the Africa trade bill or on the International Monetary Fund. But world events are not waiting for Congress. My friends, if you believe we have responsibilities in the world, and you believe ultimately those responsibilities affect the welfare of your families, your children, and the future of this country, I say we cannot rest. We have work to do. (Applause.)

We cannot rest until we solve the oldest, most stubborn, most painful challenge of our nation -- the continuing challenge of race. Yesterday, for the final time, I met with my Advisory Board on Race and received their report. I am proud of their work, the guidance they have given us for policy, for dialogue, for specific practices in every community in this country. But we know we've only

just begun a work that will take a lifetime; only just begun to find ways finally to lift the burden of race and redeem the full promise of America.

You know, our founders knew we weren't perfect, but they always strived for perfect ideals. They built us a country based on a Constitution that was literally made for reconciliation, for the honorable and principled resolution of differences, rooted in the simple proposition that God created us all equal. Therefore, the implicit mandate of the Constitution is that each of us should respect and treat our neighbors as we, ourselves, would like to be treated. It is still our most sure guidepost today. We can build an America where discrimination is something you have to look in the history books to find. But we've still got work to do.

If it takes until my last day on this Earth, I owe it to you, to the American people who have been so good to me for so long, to keep working on guiding our people across all the great divides into that one beloved community. My friends, this is not a time to rest. It's a time to work. Just as God is not finished with any of us yet, we must not be finished with God's work. (Applause.) We must not be finished with seeking peace or justice or freedom, equality, human dignity, and reconciliation.

Foxes have holes, birds of the air have nests; but the son of Man has no place to rest his head. There is never going to be an end to this work. (Applause.) And the present moment of promise imposes upon all of us a special responsibility. So let there be no end to your faith, your energy, your courage and your commitment.

And let me say one other thing. You and I need some help. And this November we'll be given a chance to get it. (Applause.) We have worked hard to make America a better place; and it is. We have worked hard to empower our people; and we have. But now they must use that power to be heard, to say what we shall do and where we shall go. This is a moment of decision for us. Will it be progress or partisanship, people or politics, principle or power?

The scripture says that we should mount up with wings as eagles, we should run and not grow tired, we should walk and not faint. We should not grow weary in doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart. For all the many things I am grateful to the Black Caucus for, the most important thing is that I know you have never lost heart and that in your heart there is a longing for the best, not just for African Americans, but for all Americans. We can help them get there and they can lead us home.

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

END

10:42 P.M. EDT

Message Sent

To:

Lori E. Abrams
Jeannetta P. Allen
Lori L. Anderson
Brenda M. Anders
Patrick Aylward
Robin J. Bachman
Kyle M. Baker
Karen L. Barbuschak
Beverly J. Barnes
Brian A. Barreto
Mark H. Bartholomew
David S. Beaubaire
Paul E. Begala
Mark J. Bernstein
Marsha E. Berry
antony j. blinken
Alexander L. Boyle
Lanny A. Breuer
Patrick E. Briggs
Erin L. Brinkman
Katharine Button
Robin J. Bachman
Barbara D. Woolley
Bradley M. Campbell
Alejandro G. Cabrera @ ovp@eop
Dominique L. Cano
Laura Capps
Joseph W. Cerrell @ OVP@EOP
David K. Chai
Andrei H. Cherny @ ovp@eop
Nanda Chitre
Delia A. Cohen
Julianne B. Corbett
Michelle Crisci
Lisa R. Dass
Elliot J. Diringer
Jackson T. Dunn
Daniel W. Burkhardt
Diane Ikemiyashiro
Dorian V. Weaver
Dorinda A. Salcido
Douglas Matties
Anne M. Edwards
Rahm Emanuel
Patricia M. Ewing @ OVP@EOP
Joseph C. Fanaroff
Jennifer Ferguson

Julie A. Fernandes
Martha Foley
Carmen B. Fowler
Grace A. Garcia
KARA GERHARDT
Jessica L. Gibson
Adam W. Goldberg
Julie B. Goldberg
Dario J. Gomez
David R. Goodfriend
John A. Gribben
Donald Goldberg
Lawrence J. Haas @ OVP@EOP
William C. Haymes
Maureen A. Hudson
Sheyda Jahanbani
Thomas D. Janenda
david t. johnson
Wayne C. Johnson
Michele Jolin
James M. Teague
Jon P. Jennings
Julie E. Mason
David E. Kalbaugh
Jonathan A. Kaplan
Mark A. Kitchens
Catherine T. Kitchen
Sarah S. Freeman
Jim Kohlenberger @ OVP@EOP
Kris M Balderston
Sara M. Latham
Christopher J. Lavery
Christopher S. Lehane @ OVP@EOP
Joseph P. Lockhart
Laura D. Schwartz
Laura K. Capps
Lisa J. Levin
Christine N. Macy
michael d. malone
Laura S. Marcus
Tanya E. Martin
Doris O. Matsui
Douglas R. Matties
Emory L. Mayfield
Andrew J. Mayock
Anne E. McGuire
Susanna B. McGuire
Estela Mendoza
Noa A. Meyer
R. Scott Michaud
Elisa Millsap
Cheryl D. Mills
Rajiv Y. Mody
megan moloney

Kevin Moran
Melissa M. Murray
Reuben L. Musgrave Jr.
Mindy E. Myers
Sean P. Maloney
Michael V. Terrell
Steven J. Naplan
Mark D. Neschis
Elizabeth R. Newman
Nathan B. Naylor @ ovp@eop
Neera Tanden
Jonathan Orszag
Eleanor S. Parker
Carole A. Parmelee
Sally P. Paxton
Julia M. Payne
Misty L. Phillips
Matthew W. Pitcher
Phillip Caplan
Nicole R. Rabner
Brian A. Reich @ OVP@EOP
Linda Ricci
Renee C. Riley
Robin M. Roland
Cecilia E. Rouse
Charles F. Ruff
Peter Rundlet
Virginia N. Rustique
Evan Ryan
Jodi R. Sakol @ OVP@EOP
Roger V. Salazar
G. Timothy Saunders
Jason H. Schechter
Judithanne V. Scourfield
BROOKS SCOVILLE
Maya Seiden
Barbara Semedo
Ruby Shamir
Jeffrey A. Shesol
June Shih
Robert M. Shireman
Jake Siewert
Dawn L. Smalls
Craig T. Smith
jonathan e. smith
Mary L. Smith
Richard Socarides
Douglas B. Sosnik
Maria E. Soto
Chandler G. Spaulding
Elisabeth Steele
Aviva Steinberg
Todd Stern
Dana C. Strand

Diane A. Stumpf
Michael J. Sullivan
Jonathan H. Schnur
Tracy F. Sisser
Sylvia M. Mathews
Jordan Tamagni
Sandra L. Tijerina
Amy W. Tobe
Barry J. Toiv
Serena C. Torrey
Karen Tramontano
June G. Turner
Thurgood Marshall Jr
Dag Vega
Virginia Apuzzo
Michael Waldman
Angelina Walker @ ovp@eop
Essence P. Washington
Glen M. Weiner
Robert S. Weiner
Peter A. Weissman
Lowell A. Weiss
Woyneab M. Wondwossen
Debra S. Wood
William H. White Jr.

1=US@2=WESTERN UNION@3=@5=ATT.COM@*ELN\62955104@MRX@LNGTWY
62955104 @ eln.attmail.com@INET@LNGTWY
BARTHOLOW_T @ A1@CD@LNGTWY
CROWLEY_P @ A1@CD@LNGTWY
CUTLER_L @ A1@CD@LNGTWY
DICKEY_L @ A1@CD@LNGTWY
FORDE_R @ A1@CD@LNGTWY
GRAY_W @ A1@CD@LNGTWY
INFOMGT @ A1@CD@LNGTWY
KTORPEY @ AOL.COM@INET@LNGTWY
PR_U=TDIXON@PR_L=AVUOEOB@MRP@LNGTWY
Pub_Arch @ oa.eop.gov@INET@LNGTWY
Releases @ pub.pub.whitehouse.gov@INET@LNGTWY
Releases @ www3.whitehouse.gov@INET@LNGTWY
NAPLAN_S @ A1@CD@LNGTWY
SUNTUM_M @ A1@CD@LNGTWY
SUNTUM_M @ A1@CD@LNGTWY
TCSmith @ dol.gov@INET@LNGTWY
WOZNIAK_N @ A1@CD@LNGTWY
backup @ wilson.ai.mit.edu@INET@LNGTWY
cmbeach @ msn.com@INET@LNGTWY
dmilbank @ tnr.com@INET@LNGTWY
julie_green @ ed.gov@INET@LNGTWY
klasky_helaine @ ustr.gov@INET@LNGTWY
meglynn @ usia.gov@INET@LNGTWY
newsdesk @ usnewswire.com@INET@LNGTWY
skgmd @ umich.edu@INET@LNGTWY
tingen-terri @ dol.gov@INET@LNGTWY
usia01 @ access.digex.com@INET@LNGTWY

usnwire @ access.digex.com@INET@LNGTWY

wh-outbox-distr @ pub.pub.whitehouse.gov@INET@LNGTWY

ARMS Email SystemRECORD TYPE: PRESIDENTIAL (NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: Jordan Tamagni (CN=Jordan Tamagni/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])

CREATION DATE/TIME:22-SEP-1998 22:08:08.00

SUBJECT: CHC

TO: mawaldman (mawaldman @ aol.com @ inet [UNKNOWN])

READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

Draft 9/22/98 9:00pm

PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON

REMARKS FOR CONGRESSIONAL HISPANIC CAUCUS DINNER

WASHINGTON, DC

September 23, 1998

Acknowledgments: TK

Before we begin, I want to say a word about the terrible hurricane that has ripped through the Caribbean. [INSERT TK]

Now, I'd like to pay tribute to the two men we are honoring here tonight -- Representative Henry Gonzalez, and Representative Esteban Torres. &Henry B 8 was more than a pioneer -- more than a brilliant prophet on the need to make our economy work for ordinary people. With his stubborn insistence on standing on the House floor and standing up for principle, he has been a conscience for the Congress and the country. And we are very grateful. Esteban Torres is the best of the newest generation. From his days as a UAW shop steward to his days as chair of this caucus, he has fought for working people of all backgrounds. He has fought to make certain that economic growth benefits the people not only of this country but of Mexico as well.

For the six years in a row, I have looked forward to coming here -- to join in the energy and the commitment and the creativity of the fastest growing community in America. I know that the Vice President spent the evening with many of you last night at the Hispanic Heritage Awards. In so many ways, that rich heritage -- its values of family, faith, and community, of hard work, passion, and patriotism -- that is America's heritage, too. That legacy is at the heart of everything the Hispanic Caucus stands for -- and I have been honored to work alongside you for six years now. I'd like to take a moment to think back on all that we have accomplished together.

Together, we expanded the Earned Income Tax Credit and helped cut taxes for 15 million hard-working families -- including more than 1 million Hispanics. When the Republicans tried to slash it we said no. Together, we increased the minimum wage to give 10 million Americans -- including nearly 2 million Hispanic Americans -- a well-deserved raise. Now, I think it's time to increase the minimum wage again, and I

am disappointed that yesterday the Senate voted against doing just that. We value families -- we should raise the value of the minimum wage.

Together we fought for and won the biggest increase in children's health care in more than three decades, to insure up to 5 million uninsured children across this country. We expanded the Head Start program to help our children get off on the right foot. We passed the Family and Medical Leave Act that gave millions of people the chance to take time off from work to care for an ailing parent or a newborn child.

Together, we have opened the doors of higher education with the HOPE Scholarship, with more Pell Grants, with tax credits for all higher education, with deductible student loans. Because of our efforts, everyone who is willing to work hard can go to college.

Together with the Vice President's leadership, we created more than 100 empowerment zones and enterprise communities, established community development banks, doubled small business loans to minorities and tripled them to women. In fact, businesses owned and operated by Hispanic women are the fastest growing category of small business in America today.

Together we shaped and passed the historic crime bill that is taking guns off our streets, putting more police on our streets and more prevention to keep our children out of trouble in the first place.

Together, we have built a stronger America: nearly 17 million jobs ... the lowest unemployment rate in 28 years ... the lowest Hispanic unemployment rate in a generation ... the fastest real wage growth in 20 years ... a record number of new small businesses every year ... violent crime down a record six years in a row ... and the lowest crime rate in 25 years. None of this could have happened without the leadership, the friendship, the ideas of the CHC.

I also want to give much-deserved credit to my staff. One good reason that things are looking so good for so much of America, is because my administration looks so much like America. One of my proudest accomplishments was assembling the most diverse administration in history -- as the Vice President just said, the greatest number of Hispanic American appointments in history. We are not successful in spite of our diversity -- we are successful because of it.

Now, we must decide what we should do with this moment of prosperity and progress -- how can we use the resources it is producing and the self-confidence it is generating -- to build a brighter future for all our people?

Some people think that now is the time to kick back and relax. There is an old Mexican proverb that says: &El que no siembra, no levanta 8 [ell kay no see-EM-bra no leh-VAHN-tah] -- He who doesn't sow, doesn't get a crop. We must use this time to sow the seeds of the future, and build the America we want for our children. And we cannot afford to rest.

I say we cannot rest until we save Social Security for the 21st Century. In a few days, we'll have the first balanced budget and surplus in 29 years. I believe we must not spend one penny of that surplus until we have saved Social Security. Some say we should use the surplus to pay for a tax cut. My balanced budget proves that we can reserve the surplus and still have targeted tax cuts for education ... to build and repair old schools ... to help families pay for child care ...to help small businesses take out pensions for their employees. And every one of those tax cuts is paid for in my balanced budget.

I say we cannot rest until all children in all communities have a world-class education. My balanced budget will help to hire 100,000 more teachers ... to reduce class size in the early grades to 18 ... to build or modernize 5,000 schools ... to hook up all our classrooms, even in the poorest neighborhoods, to the Internet ... to reward school districts for undertaking the kind of sweeping reforms we've seen in cities like Chicago ...to hire 35,000 more teachers to teach in the inner city and other struggling communities.

You and I know that education is the key to opportunity. But you also know that far, far too many Hispanic young people are not getting the education they need to succeed. That is why I have appointed the first-ever Presidential Advisory Commission on Educational Excellence for Hispanics. And that is why I have proposed the first-ever Hispanic Education Action Plan -- to reach out to Hispanic young people, and encourage them to stay in high school, to go on to college, and to reach for their dreams.

And you and I know that unless they learn English, those young people may never reach their full potential. That is why I fought for and won a 35% increase in funding for bilingual education in the balanced budget agreement. This will help 1,000 school districts all across America to improve teacher training and add extra classes for students who have not yet mastered English. We shouldn't have to fight divisive political battles to do what is right for our children.

I say we cannot rest until we protect our families with a strong, enforceable Patients' Bill of Rights. Managed care can help make health care more affordable for more families. But with 160 million Americans in managed care today, we must say to these plans: Don't turn people away from an emergency room. Don't turn people away from a specialist. Don't let an accountant make decisions only a doctor should make. Traditional care or managed care, every American deserves quality care.

We cannot rest while our communities are so thoroughly segregated by income and by race. The Federal Government should lead the way both in words and in deeds. First, we must put an end to unfair housing practices wherever and whenever they occur. I have asked HUD Secretary Cuomo to double the number of anti-housing discrimination cases. Next, I have directed Secretary Cuomo to work with you to undertake a major legislative overhaul so that our public housing admissions policies help deconcentrate poverty, mix incomes, and thereby mix people of all races and ethnicities. We cannot live together as a nation if we don't live together in our communities.

So let's pledge tonight to join together in the fight for public housing legislation that includes our historic admissions reforms -- reforms that will tear down the walls that divide and integrate public housing for generations to come.

We cannot rest until every community, every neighborhood, every block, every family has the chance to reap the benefits of our economic growth. That is why we must fund the empowerment initiatives the Vice President and Secretary Cuomo have worked so hard for, to expand funding for the community development banks, to step up enforcement of fair housing laws, to revitalize more urban brownfield areas, to restore summer jobs for our young people, and to provide housing assistance for those leaving welfare and entering work.

And we cannot rest until we have done even more to break the cycle of welfare dependency and despair. We should all be proud that we have the smallest percentage of our people on welfare in 29 years -- with nearly 4 million fewer people since I signed the welfare reform bill into law. We should all be proud that we made good on our promise to restore some benefits to legal immigrants. But we know that there is much to be done.

The pressures to move from welfare to work are intense -- and we know the transition can be particularly difficult for Hispanic women, many of whom lack language as well as job skills. I am committed to working with you to ensure that every individual has the tools to make this transition. That's why I fought for a \$3 billion Welfare to Work fund in the balanced budget, and \$50 million more for Welfare to Work transportation. And that is why I have proposed a \$21 billion child care initiative, to add to the \$4 billion we fought for in the Welfare bill.

I say we cannot rest until every American's voice can be heard in the halls of power -- that is one very good reason why we must ensure a fair and accurate Census. Some in Congress would have us ignore the best scientific methods for ensuring the most accurate count. This is unacceptable. In 1990, 5 percent of Hispanics were not counted; nearly 70,000 Hispanic children in Los Angeles County alone were left out. In the year 2000, we can -- and must -- do better. This is a fundamental issue, a crucial civil rights issue. Every American counts. We must count every American.

And while we're at it -- let's give the 4 million people of Puerto Rico the right to choose their own status. In December, they will go to the polls. The Senate Republican leaders say they will reconsider the results of that referendum. I say we should be bound by the results of that referendum. Puerto Ricans are American citizens -- let Puerto Rican people decide.

We cannot rest until we contain the economic turmoil in Russia and Asia and help spur robust economic growth throughout the world. Growth at home depends upon growth abroad. Many of you came with me when I traveled to Latin America earlier this year. We saw many things on that trip -- vibrant people, ancient customs, and a spirit of entrepreneurship that is making Latin America one of the world's fastest growing economies. That is why I have urged the major industrial economies to stand ready to use

the \$15 billion in emergency IMF funds to help stop the financial contagion from spreading to Latin America and elsewhere. And we must help the IMF put out the world's economic fires by paying our fair share.

Finally, we cannot rest until we solve the oldest, most stubborn, most painful challenge of our nation -- the lingering problems and limitless possibilities of our growing diversity. Last week, for the final time, I met with my Advisory Board on Race and received their report. I am proud of their work, the guidance they have given us for policy, for dialogue, for specific practices in every community in this country. But we know we have only just begun a work that will take a lifetime; only just begun to find ways finally to lift the burden of racial and ethnic discrimination, and redeem the full promise of America.

More than any other nation on earth, America has drawn our strength from our diversity, as wave after wave of immigrants have come to our shores in search of a better life for their families. Today, we are the most ethnically and racially diverse democracy in the history of the world. With nearly one million people coming legally to America every year from countries all over the world, we must ask ourselves: will these changes strengthen and unite us, or weaken and divide us?

I believe that immigration is not only good for America -- it is America. It is our history -- it is our heritage -- and it is our hope for the future. As ethnic conflicts tear countries and families apart around the world, we can prove that a diverse people can live together in peace, learning from each another, drawing on each other's strengths, building on one another's accomplishments.

We must welcome new immigrants, and do everything we can to encourage them to learn our language, embrace our way of life, and become full participants in our society by becoming citizens. That is why I have called on the INS to streamline and improve the naturalization process. My balanced budget would help reduce the backlog of applications and improve customer service. When people take responsibility to become citizens, we should do everything we can to help them -- whether they work in a Fortune 500 company, in a department store, or in the fields, as so many have before them. They deserve a chance -- and we must give it to them.

America has always stood proud as a nation dedicated to widening the circle of opportunity, to deepening the meaning of our freedom, and to forming that more perfect union. One of the most passionate advocates for those ideals our country has ever known -- indeed, one of our greatest American heroes -- was Cesar Chavez. Thirty years ago, he met a kindred spirit in Robert Kennedy, who had traveled to California where Chavez lay, fasting in penance for the violence caused by the struggle for farm workers rights. That night, Bobby Kennedy and Cesar Chavez broke bread together in a Thanksgiving Mass. Someone had to read these words Chavez was too weak to speak, words I would like to share with you tonight.

&Our lives are all that really belong to us, so it is how we use our lives that determines what kind of people we are. 8 That night, Robert Kennedy made up his mind to run for President.

My friends, you and I are bound together by our commitment to use our lives to make this country a better place for all our people, to build a better world for our children. This is not a time to rest. It is time to work. I am honored to share this precious moment in time with all of you, and to work together to build that better world.

Thank you and God bless you all.

ARMS Email SystemRECORD TYPE: PRESIDENTIAL (NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: Maria E. Soto (CN=Maria E. Soto/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])

CREATION DATE/TIME:22-SEP-1998 17:21:59.00

SUBJECT: 1998-09/22 press briefing by barshefsky, summers, etc

TO: William H. White Jr. (CN=William H. White Jr./OU=WHO/O=EOP @ EOP [WHO])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Mona G. Mohib (CN=Mona G. Mohib/OU=WHO/O=EOP @ EOP [WHO])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Jeffrey L. Farrow (CN=Jeffrey L. Farrow/OU=WHO/O=EOP @ EOP [WHO])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Raynell K. Morris (CN=Raynell K. Morris/OU=WHO/O=EOP @ EOP [WHO])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Patrice L. Stanley (CN=Patrice L. Stanley/OU=WHO/O=EOP @ EOP [WHO])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Emory L. Mayfield (CN=Emory L. Mayfield/OU=WHO/O=EOP @ EOP [WHO])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Fred DuVal (CN=Fred DuVal/OU=WHO/O=EOP @ EOP [WHO])
READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

----- Forwarded by Maria E. Soto/WHO/EOP on 09/22/98
05:15 PM -----

OLCOTT_E @ A1
09/22/98 04:06:00 PM

Record Type: Record

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

cc:

Subject: 1998-09/22 press briefing by barshefsky, summers, etc

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary
(New York, New York)

For Immediate Release
1998

September 22,

PRESS BRIEFING BY
UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE CHARLENE BARSHEFSKY
NATIONAL ECONOMIC ADVISOR GENE SPERLING,
DEPUTY NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISOR JIM STEINBERG, AND
DEPUTY TREASURY SECRETARY LARRY SUMMERS

3:05 P.M. EDT

MR. LEAVY: Good afternoon. As you know, the President's meeting with Prime Minister Obuchi has concluded. The President is on his way back to Washington. Here to give a readout of the meeting are Deputy National Security Advisor Jim Steinberg, National Economic Council Chair Gene Sperling, Deputy Treasury Secretary Larry Summers, and U.S. Trade Representative Charlene Barshefsky. They will each make a short opening statement and then take your questions.

Jim.

MR. STEINBERG: Thank you, David. As you all know, President Clinton and Prime Minister Obuchi just finished more than three hours of meetings this morning and afternoon -- a wide-ranging conversation on the full range of subjects of interest to the two. The meetings fell into three parts. There was a one-on-one meeting to begin with that lasted for about 45 minutes, followed by two sessions of slightly more than an hour each, one largely focusing on economics and the second largely on security and foreign policy issues.

As I say, it was a very comprehensive set of discussions. The conversation was excellent between the two, a good chance to build a personal relationship, and a very open and broad-ranging exchange. One of the things that I think was most important, as you heard at the beginning, was that the President has invited Prime Minister Obuchi for an official visit to Washington early next year.

Both the President and the Prime Minister stressed how important this relationship was to the two of them, the President pointing

to
the fact that the two Ambassadors that he's appointed to Japan, former
Vice
President Mondale and now Ambassador Foley, really represent the best that
America has to offer and a real reflection of the quality of the
relationship.

As I said, they had an opportunity to build a personal
relationship and agreed at the end of the meeting that they would call
each
other Keizo and Bill.

Before I talk a little bit about the specifics, just to
give
you a flavor of the kind of relationship that they are building, at the
beginning of the first, larger session, Prime Minister Obuchi wryly
referred
to an incident that took place a few months ago when he was referred to in
the
press as resembling cold pizza. And he thanked Secretary Albright for her
comments, that she said she liked cold pizza, and the President observed
as
how he had had cold pizza last night. So it really gives you a
,
sense of the kind of interaction between them.

On the security front, which was the focus of the
lunch sessions, they began by reaffirming the importance of this
security relationship, which both described as strong as ever.
And they reaffirmed their commitment to that security

,
relationship. They had an extensive discussion of the situation
on the Korean Peninsula, and particularly the recent missile
tests from North Korea. They both indicated that they took this
to be a matter of serious concern; at the same time, they both
stressed the importance of continuing with the agreed framework
and with KEDO. The Japanese Prime Minister reiterated and
reaffirmed their intention to honor their commitment and the
President made clear that he intends to push forward with our
concerns -- our joint concerns about North Korea's missile
program.

They discussed the implementation of the defense
guidelines and the SACO agreement. In particular, the Prime
Minister indicated that while he regretted that we had not been
able to fully implement the SACO agreement, that he was committed
to moving forward on that. They discussed moving forward on
theater missile defense and the statement that the two foreign
ministers and defense ministers reached this past weekend on
working together on that.

They had a broad-ranging discussion on foreign

policy topics, including China, Russia, Indonesia, and Malaysia. The two discussed climate change and the upcoming meeting in Buenos Aires of the parties to the Kyoto Agreement, and the recent agreements that they announced today on global GPS and Y2K.

Gene.

MR. SPERLING: I'll be brief and then let Larry Summers and then Charlene give you a little more detail on the components of the economic side. As Jim said, they had a candid -- quite candid, open discussion. When we arrived there, there was supposed to have been a 15-minute, one-on-one tea session with them. That went on for 45 or 50 minutes. In asking the President, the conversation, he felt it was important to keep the contents of it private, but he stated that over two-thirds of that discussion had been on the banking and financial restructuring issues concerning Japan.

We then went into the extended bilateral meeting. They spoke again to the larger group about some of the banking and financial restructuring issues. The Prime Minister referenced a meeting that he had had in December with Secretary Rubin, where he went over some of the things they talked about and discussed how some of the things they're doing related to that conversation. I'll have Larry go into more of the details. He also talked about the stimulus demand issues.

And then their final topic was on trade, where the President talked about the importance of showing progress on market-opening measures in the region and the importance of APEC; of the importance of enforcing the existing agreement in our sectoral issues; and then the deregulation issues, as well. Charlene will go into more detail there.

They also talked about the global crisis more generally. The Prime Minister stated that he had carefully -- at the lunch in fact, stated that he had carefully read the President's speech at the Council of Foreign Relations and had agreed with the main points there and stressed the importance of them working together through multilateral institutions on restoring growth and the social safety sector issues.

Let me let Larry speak for a moment and then Charlene, and then we'll be happy to take your questions.

DEPUTY SECRETARY SUMMERS: Thanks, Gene. The context for the economic and financial discussions between the President and Prime Minister Obuchi was the G-7 statement that was issued last week and the President's speech, both of which

highlighted the fact that the balance of risks in the world economy had shifted, making growth more important and emphasizing

in particular the close cooperation among major economies at this period.

The President, in his comments, stressed the urgency of swift and effective action to stimulate domestic demand-led growth and strengthen the financial system in Japan. Prime Minister Obuchi made it clear that it was his intention to take appropriate measures to secure an early turnaround in the Japanese economy. They agreed on the importance of what happened in Japan for the global economy.

Recalling the historical experience in many countries, including our own, the President emphasized the need for the Japanese financial authorities to infuse public money swiftly and in sufficient amounts into Japanese banks to ensure they were able to continue lending on a strong and sustainable basis.

The President and the Prime Minister also agreed on the importance of Japan's accelerating the disposal of problem assets, improving financial disclosure, strengthening the supervisory system, and restructuring the financial system with protection for depositors, and had quite a thorough discussion on some of these questions.

Finally, the President and the Prime Minister agreed to work together to respond to the President's call for increased efforts to respond to humanitarian needs in crisis countries in Asia, and to work together to accelerate efforts to promote comprehensive programs for corporate and bank restructuring in the critical countries, working alongside the multilateral development banks.

AMBASSADOR BARSHEFSKY: The President and Prime Minister, as Gene said, discussed a number of trade issues. First off, the President raised the critical importance of continued and accelerated deregulation of the Japanese economy. In that regard, we will be providing Japan at the end of this month with a second set of substantial deregulatory measures we would like to see Japan take in a variety of sectors, including telecom, pharmaceuticals, energy, housing, construction, and so on.

In October we'll be presenting to the government of Japan a list of deregulatory measures we would like to see them take in the automotive sector, where deregulation has essentially stopped. And the President made clear that he would like to see a very full package of deregulatory measures reached by the time of the G-8 this spring. You'll recall our last set of substantial deregulatory measures was achieved at the Birmingham G-8 meeting.

Second, the President underscored the critical importance of enforcing existing agreements and, in particular,

government procurement, insurance, glass, autos and auto parts, paper, and others. With respect to government procurement, public works spending by Japan will occur in traditional areas, such as construction, as well as in areas of 21st century technology, such as computers, supercomputers, medical technology, and telecommunications. These five areas are covered by five separate bilateral procurement agreements that we have with Japan to help ensure that American companies and foreign companies get a fair shake in the procurement process -- procedural protections, due process, and so on. So that was underscored.

Third, the President stressed the critical importance of Japan being constructive in the APEC process so that the nine sectors discussed for further market opening can

come to fruition and ultimately be taken to the WTO for further work after the APEC leaders meeting. And I think I've already mentioned that enforcement of existing agreements was discussed, the President feeling that implementation by Japan of its commitments was absolutely critical, despite and because of difficult financial times.

Q A couple of different questions. First, if I heard what you were saying correctly, the President and Prime Minister agreed on the need for certain measures, but on one particularly crucial one, I think the beginning of your sentence was just the President urged the Prime Minister to use public funds. Did you get any further clarification about whether Japan is or is not going to use public funds? And let me ask a second question on an unrelated matter.

There have been some wire stories out of London about possibly the creation of a new fund or a new mechanism or a new tool to bail out Latin American economies, particularly Brazil. Can you tell us what developments have taken place on that front?

DEPUTY SECRETARY SUMMERS: On your first question, Jake, the Prime Minister made it clear to the President that there were a set of very complex discussions, political discussions that were under way in Japan with respect to the banking legislation, that it was something he was very much focused on and very much saw the importance of.

He referenced some of the banking problems that we had had in this country, the historical experience generally, and made it clear that he saw this as something that Japan had to address in an effective way. And certainly the President made clear that that was how we saw it and made clear that he was prepared to be helpful in any way that we could.

The Prime Minister talked about how much he valued

advice in this difficult situation, and I think they both recognized in their comments that what was important was not words at this point, but what steps Japan was able to take over time to address these questions.

On the Brazil and Latin America question, I don't have anything new to give you. Certainly, it's been, I think, clear from the comments that the President has made and that the Secretary has made that we are watching the situation in Latin America and around the world, in particular in Brazil. There's certainly been conversations with the Brazilian authorities, with the IMF, with the G-7, as we're always in touch on significant financial situations, but I wouldn't want to put too much behind the particular kinds of reports that you're referring to. It's a situation we're watching and it's very much going to relate to the choices Brazil makes going forward.

I would say that Brazil is a country that has made enormous progress in recent years in both stabilization and in opening up its economy, taking important steps towards privatization and structural reform, although there are obviously many steps that are still important going forward. And clearly Brazil, like a number of other countries in Latin America, has been hit by market judgments that have a great deal to do with contagion as well as any judgment of their own economic situation. And that's certainly something that I think we in the international community need to be mindful of going forward.

Q Just to follow, are you explicitly denying that there is discussion of a creation of a new fund then?

DEPUTY SECRETARY SUMMERS: You know, there are always discussions of a variety of things, but there is certainly no specific proposal that's about to come out.

,

Q Mr. Summers, the President said last week that the global economy is facing its worst challenge since World War II. Can you tell us how he expressed his concerns about Japan's responsibility right now, specifically, to Prime Minister Obuchi.

DEPUTY SECRETARY SUMMERS: I think he made it clear that the judgment of not just American officials, but economists and financial experts around the world and of officials in many other parts of the world, was that what happened in Japan was going to be -- was very, very important. But it wasn't a point that was stressed very much because Prime Minister Obuchi, very much toward the beginning of his comments, said that he understood that what happened in Japan was very important for Japan, but also very, very important for the economies of Asia and indeed for the global economy, and that's why he felt a particular responsibility to focus on it. And he noted some respects in which it was easier to focus on it right now than it

had been at some earlier points when he had had discussions of these questions.

MR. SPERLING: The President also reiterated, I think, the point he had made in his Council of Foreign Relations speech, that he went back to 1993 and talked about at that time there being a clear consensus of the need for the United States, Europe, and Japan each to do what they needed to do to restore growth, and that there was maybe a different recipe for each country, but that there needed to be that same common sense right now.

Q Larry, I'm not sure I fully understand the Prime Minister's response on this issue of the need for swift public money into the banks. The Chairman of the LDP said overnight that there would be no public money put into the long-term credit bank of Japan, which seemed to be a return to the agreement that they struck at the end of the week.

There's something of a disconnect between the impression we're being left here that there is an agreement between the leaders on the need for public funds, and what we're hearing back in Tokyo from Mr. Obuchi's own aides.

DEPUTY SECRETARY SUMMERS: David, I think what I said was that the President believes, and certainly we all believe, that the infusion of public money is essential to an effective solution of these problems.

I think the Prime Minister made it clear that they were working very hard on this legislation, that there were a lot of moving pieces in how this legislation would go, and he did not make a commitment to us as to what its specific content would be, although I think it was clear from his comments that he recognized the importance of Japan grappling in an effective way with these banking problems that are so consequential for its economy and for the global economy.

Q Did he ever specifically address his own view of whether or not public funds should be injected?

DEPUTY SECRETARY SUMMERS: He addressed -- I don't think I've got much to add to what I've already said. I think it's better to let the Prime Minister or his people characterize any precise beliefs that he has. What I think he did make clear was that this was very much something they were very focused on in working through a solution to the banking system and his commitment to having it be effective.

Q Larry, do you come away from this meeting confident that Japan is going to take the steps necessary?

DEPUTY SECRETARY SUMMERS: I don't think it's for us

to predict. I think one of the things that was very healthy in *the discussion* between the Prime Minister and the President was that they both recognized that what was going to be important was the steps that were taken and the actions that were taken by all countries going forward, and that that was what was crucial rather than words and statements.

Q We've had a history of meetings where U.S. officials come out and say we've encouraged Japan to do more, and then in the aftermath of that U.S. officials being dissatisfied with what Japan does. Is this any different, or is this just going to follow that pattern?

DEPUTY SECRETARY SUMMERS: We will have to see what kind of legislation emerges in the banking area. As important as the legislation question is what kinds of concrete regulatory steps the Japanese are able to take, what kinds of movements there are and decisions there are with respect to the budget as we move towards the 1999 budget, what kinds of actions are taken with respect to tax policy. And of course, what's most important is not what we think, it's what markets think and how markets respond to the situation.

I think it's only then that we'll be -- it's only with benefit of hindsight that we'll be able to judge the policy steps that are taken during this period.

Q Is the President trying to set any deadlines for when these steps will take place?

DEPUTY SECRETARY SUMMERS: No, it's not -- the President stressed in his comments the basic underlying strength of the Japanese economy, its tremendous capacity and sophistication, and his recognition that Japan had to make its own economic decisions and chart its course, although the course it set would have important implications for the world.

And the Prime Minister made it clear that advice, particularly from countries like the United States that had had problems in the financial system at various points, was something that he very much welcomed.

Q When McCurry came out and briefed us before, he was going awfully heavy on this Japan and U.S. as friends and that they talked as friends. It sounded as if there were a lot of soft-peddling going on compared with some of the previous meetings between the two sides, whether at the summit level or other levels. And I wonder if the reason for that is you have concluded that perhaps the tone of some of these previous meetings has generated counterproductive results with Japan; or that because the Japanese situation at this point is so desperately fragile that we don't want to make it worse.

DEPUTY SECRETARY SUMMERS: I don't think either of those things, Paul. We have always spoken to the Japanese as friends and have always recognized that this is perhaps the world's most important bilateral relationship, that we all have an enormous stake in what happens each other's countries, and that as friends we're able to speak candidly with each other and able to think about how we can mutually support each other.

I think I've by now had the opportunity to be present in meetings between the President and six Japanese Prime Ministers, and I would say that in each of those meetings the friendship, the commitment to mutual support, and the enormous importance that we attach to the relationship with Japan has been stressed. The President began the meeting with -- began the first of the expanded sessions by noting that Tom Foley and Walter Mondale were two of America's most distinguished figures in public life. And the fact that they have been chosen by his administration as ambassadors to Japan was a reflection of the

enormous importance that we attach to our friendship with Japan.

Q Mr. Secretary, does the President believe that Japan should infuse public money even over the objection of the opposition parties and many people in Japan?

DEPUTY SECRETARY SUMMERS: I think the President believes and his economic and financial advisors believe that in the context of a set of banking problems like those that have emerged in Japan, the lesson of history -- in our country, in the Scandinavian countries, in a number of other cases -- is that to work through those problems and preserve financial stability while at the same time providing for growth and avoiding a credit crunch, that the infusion of public funds into the banking system in a very carefully conditioned way -- not as bail-outs to shareholders -- can play a very important and critical role.

Q Dr. Summers, can you tell us what the priority is -- on one hand, get the economy moving, get the banking system cleaned up; on the other hand, take a hit in some key sectors in terms of import. I know you don't see it as an either/or situation, but what's the priority here?

DEPUTY SECRETARY SUMMERS: You said it exactly right: it is not either/or. These are mutually reinforcing agendas. A stronger Japanese economy will obviously be a Japanese economy that is able to import more; it is an economy that will be able to dismantle import barriers with less disruption.

Conversely, a Japanese economy that is more open will be a Japanese economy that is more flexible and adaptable and will therefore be able to attract and generate investment opportunities that will be stimulus to growth to a greater

degree. So these are very much mutually reinforcing agenda.

AMBASSADOR BARSHEFSKY: If I can add to that, as Larry said, we have always said quite consistently over the last year that in addition to banking sector reform and substantial fiscal stimulus, market opening and deregulation are critical if Japan is to achieve sustained long-term economic growth.

This is one reason that the President raised the variety of trade issues that he did, particularly deregulation, as well as agreements implementation, government procurement, and then of course market opening in the context of APEC. Each of these steps is important not only to the global economy, but also to the functioning of Japan's own economy, which remains terribly over-regulated and underproductive.

Q How much time did they spend on trade and deregulation issues? We heard before that two-thirds of the first opening meeting was on financial and economic issues.

MR. SPERLING: You know, first of all -- and it relates to a lot of the questions on the banking side -- they were in for quite some time alone, and there were no note-takers. The President -- believe me, Jim and I tried to get our best briefing, and he felt their first meeting it was very important that he be able to have that kind of confidential conversation with him. So we asked for a nature of how much was spent on the banking and financial issues, and the President felt about two-thirds of the discussion had been.

Their discussion, I can't tell you -- they had a couple of exchanges. The President first raised the enforcing and assisting agreements in sector issues. He spoke about APEC. He talked about the opportunity to show that even in the current environment that there could be further progress made on market opening, how important that was. And then the Prime Minister replied and discussed this for a while. And then the President

came back a second time and talked about deregulation initiative, and then as Charlene has already mentioned, talked about how much he would like to have another package that they could announce at the G-7/G-8 meeting.

Q Secretary Summers, can I just reaffirm, did you say there was no specific international proposal for Latin America? Is that what you were referring to before?

DEPUTY SECRETARY SUMMERS: I think what I said was that there was enormous recognition of what had happened, profound changes that had taken place in the Latin American economies, of the extent to which they had been influenced by contagion and market reactions to other developments, that we were in close touch with the situation. The G-7 countries were

certainly watching the situation in a very careful way. But I think what I said was that I could not foresee any imminent announcement of some package, but it was a situation, certainly, that we were watching very closely and certainly wanted to be in a position -- we in the international community, international financial institutions, want to be in a position to be responsive to problems that might arise.

Q Moving to North Korea. Did the Prime Minister promise any commitment, resumption of the Japanese commitment to KEDO. A second question is how much do you expect -- North Korea for the missile talks which will resume next week?

MR. STEINBERG: The Prime Minister in broad terms reaffirmed Japan's commitment to the agreed framework and the President thanked him for that, because he indicated that while we continue to have serious problems with North Korea on the missile programs, that we have a common interest in seeing that the agreed framework go forward. And so the two agreed on that. There was not a discussion of specifics in terms of the timing of next steps, but there was, as I say, a reaffirmation -- I believe the Prime Minister's words were something to the effect that Japan intended to continue to honor its commitment with respect to the agreed framework. So I think that was -- the President thought, a very good discussion.

With respect to the missile talks, we obviously have a lot that we intend to raise with North Korea. I think one of the important aspects of the agreement that we reached with the North Koreans two weeks ago was not only were they to resume some of their requirements under the agreed framework, but the moving forward with these missile talks, I think this is an opportunity for us to discuss in detail with the North why we are concerned not only with the indigenous missile program, the testing that's just taken place, but also problems with their exports.

And the President promised the Prime Minister that he would press very hard on that. And I think it is an opportunity for us to express on behalf of not only the United States but South Korea and Japan and all the countries of the region our concern about the program.

Q I stepped out for a minute. Did anybody ask you about Iran and how you read Khatami's speech and the fact that the foreign minister didn't show up at the Six Plus Two meeting?

MR. STEINBERG: I have not, myself, seen the text, so I don't have a reaction to Khatami's speech.

Q On Kosovo, could you just tell us what specific steps you've discussed in the last two days with other world leaders around the United Nations, and what the United States is planning on doing in the next few weeks to try to prepare for the

humanitarian crisis you say is pending, and what actions you're trying to -- how you're trying to influence Milosevic?

MR. STEINBERG: The timing of the meetings here has been very good because, as you know, the British about a week and a half ago put forward a draft resolution concerning the humanitarian situation in Kosovo. And that issue has been worked very intensively over the last couple days. I expect that

Secretary Albright, who's going to be meeting with allies I believe this afternoon, will be discussing that. We made some, I think, real progress.

She had a chance to discuss that with the Russian Foreign Minister yesterday, and so I think there's a lot of focus now on trying to get a statement from the U.N. to make clear that we think that the humanitarian situation is intolerable, that it is important that Milosevic end the military actions in Kosovo, that he create the conditions that allow for the safe and orderly return of the displaced persons, and that the international community is expressing grave concern about that.

At the same time, we continue discussions in NATO; we've done a considerable amount of planning. There are a number of options there, and I think we are making clear, both collectively and individually, that we consider the situation to be very serious there.

END

3:40 P.M. EDT

Message Sent

To:

Lori E. Abrams
Jeannetta P. Allen
Lori L. Anderson
Brenda M. Anders
Patrick Aylward
Robin J. Bachman
Kyle M. Baker
Karen L. Barbuschak
Beverly J. Barnes
Brian A. Barreto
Mark H. Bartholomew
David S. Beaubaire
Paul E. Begala
Mark J. Bernstein
Marsha E. Berry
antony j. blinken
Alexander L. Boyle

Lanny A. Breuer
Patrick E. Briggs
Erin L. Brinkman
Katharine Button
Robin J. Bachman
Barbara D. Woolley
Bradley M. Campbell
Alejandro G. Cabrera @ ovp@eop
Dominique L. Cano
Laura Capps
Joseph W. Cerrell @ OVP@EOP
David K. Chai
Andrei H. Cherny @ ovp@eop
Nanda Chitre
Delia A. Cohen
Julianne B. Corbett
Michelle Crisci
Lisa R. Dass
Elliot J. Diringer
Jackson T. Dunn
Daniel W. Burkhardt
Diane Ikemiyashiro
Dorian V. Weaver
Dorinda A. Salcido
Douglas Matties
Anne M. Edwards
Rahm Emanuel
Patricia M. Ewing @ OVP@EOP
Joseph C. Fanaroff
Jennifer Ferguson
Julie A. Fernandes
Martha Foley
Carmen B. Fowler
Grace A. Garcia
KARA GERHARDT
Jessica L. Gibson
Adam W. Goldberg
Julie B. Goldberg
Dario J. Gomez
David R. Goodfriend
John A. Gribben
Donald Goldberg
Lawrence J. Haas @ OVP@EOP
William C. Haymes
Maureen A. Hudson
Sheyda Jahanbani
Thomas D. Janenda
david t. johnson
Wayne C. Johnson
Michele Jolin
James M. Teague
Jon P. Jennings
Julie E. Mason
David E. Kalbaugh

Jonathan A. Kaplan
Mark A. Kitchens
Catherine T. Kitchen
Sarah S. Freeman
Jim Kohlenberger @ OVP@EOP
Kris M Balderston
Sara M. Latham
Christopher J. Lavery
Christopher S. Lehane @ OVP@EOP
Joseph P. Lockhart
Laura D. Schwartz
Laura K. Capps
Lisa J. Levin
Christine N. Macy
michael d. malone
Laura S. Marcus
Tanya E. Martin
Doris O. Matsui
Douglas R. Matties
Emory L. Mayfield
Andrew J. Mayock
Anne E. McGuire
Susanna B. McGuire
Estela Mendoza
Noa A. Meyer
R. Scott Michaud
Elisa Millsap
Cheryl D. Mills
Rajiv Y. Mody
megan moloney
Kevin Moran
Melissa M. Murray
Reuben L. Musgrave Jr.
Mindy E. Myers
Sean P. Maloney
Michael V. Terrell
Steven J. Naplan
Mark D. Neschis
Elizabeth R. Newman
Nathan B. Naylor @ ovp@eop
Neera Tanden
Jonathan Orszag
Eleanor S. Parker
Carole A. Parmelee
Sally P. Paxton
Julia M. Payne
Misty L. Phillips
Matthew W. Pitcher
Phillip Caplan
Nicole R. Rabner
Brian A. Reich @ OVP@EOP
Linda Ricci
Renee C. Riley
Robin M. Roland

Cecilia E. Rouse
Charles F. Ruff
Peter Rundlet
Virginia N. Rustique
Evan Ryan
Jodi R. Sakol @ OVP@EOP
Roger V. Salazar
G. Timothy Saunders
Jason H. Schechter
Judithanne V. Scourfield
BROOKS SCOVILLE
Maya Seiden
Barbara Semedo
Ruby Shamir
Jeffrey A. Shesol
June Shih
Robert M. Shireman
Jake Siewert
Dawn L. Smalls
Craig T. Smith
jonathan e. smith
Mary L. Smith
Richard Socarides
Douglas B. Sosnik
Maria E. Soto
Chandler G. Spaulding
Elisabeth Steele
Aviva Steinberg
Todd Stern
Dana C. Strand
Diane A. Stumpf
Michael J. Sullivan
Jonathan H. Schnur
Tracy F. Sisser
Sylvia M. Mathews
Jordan Tamagni
Sandra L. Tijerina
Amy W. Tobe
Barry J. Toiv
Serena C. Torrey
Karen Tramontano
June G. Turner
Thurgood Marshall Jr
Dag Vega
Virginia Apuzzo
Michael Waldman
Angelina Walker @ ovp@eop
Essence P. Washington
Glen M. Weiner
Robert S. Weiner
Peter A. Weissman
Lowell A. Weiss
Woyneab M. Wondwossen
Debra S. Wood

William H. White Jr.

I=US@2=WESTERN UNION@3=@5=ATT.COM@*ELN\62955104@MRX@LNGTWY
62955104 @ eln.attmail.com@INET@LNGTWY
BARTHOLOW_T @ A1@CD@LNGTWY
CROWLEY_P @ A1@CD@LNGTWY
CUTLER_L @ A1@CD@LNGTWY
DICKEY_L @ A1@CD@LNGTWY
FORDE_R @ A1@CD@LNGTWY
GRAY_W @ A1@CD@LNGTWY
INFOMGT @ A1@CD@LNGTWY
KTORPEY @ AOL.COM@INET@LNGTWY
PR_U=TDIXON@PR_L=AVUOEOb@MRP@LNGTWY
Pub_Arch @ oa.eop.gov@INET@LNGTWY
Releases @ pub.pub.whitehouse.gov@INET@LNGTWY
Releases @ www3.whitehouse.gov@INET@LNGTWY
NAPLAN_S @ A1@CD@LNGTWY
SUNTUM_M @ A1@CD@LNGTWY
SUNTUM_M @ A1@CD@LNGTWY
TCSmith @ dol.gov@INET@LNGTWY
WOZNIAK_N @ A1@CD@LNGTWY
backup @ wilson.ai.mit.edu@INET@LNGTWY
cmbeach @ msn.com@INET@LNGTWY
dmilbank @ tnr.com@INET@LNGTWY
julie_green @ ed.gov@INET@LNGTWY
klasky_helaine @ ustr.gov@INET@LNGTWY
meglynn @ usia.gov@INET@LNGTWY
newsdesk @ usnewswire.com@INET@LNGTWY
skgmd @ umich.edu@INET@LNGTWY
tingen-terri @ dol.gov@INET@LNGTWY
usia01 @ access.digex.com@INET@LNGTWY
usnwire @ access.digex.com@INET@LNGTWY
wh-outbox-distr @ pub.pub.whitehouse.gov@INET@LNGTWY

ARMS Email SystemRECORD TYPE: PRESIDENTIAL (NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: June Shih (CN=June Shih/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])

CREATION DATE/TIME:22-SEP-1998 18:11:05.00

SUBJECT: Re:

TO: Lowell A. Weiss (CN=Lowell A. Weiss/OU=WHO/O=EOP @ EOP [WHO])

READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:
beautiful speech

Lowell A. Weiss
09/22/98 05:56:12 PM
Record Type: Record

To: June Shih/WHO/EOP
cc:
Subject:

Final draft 9/19/98 4pm
Lowell Weiss
PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON
REMARKS TO CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS FOUNDATION DINNER
WASHINGTON, DC
September 19, 1998

Acknowledgments: Chair of CBC Maxine Waters, Chair of the dinner Rep. James Clyburn, Chair of the CBC Foundation Eva Clayton, Dean of the CBC John Conyers, Rev. Jesse Jackson, Rosa Parks, Dr. Dorothy Height; retiring Members: Ron Dellums, Floyd Flake, Louis Stokes; family of the late Rep. Charles Diggs, Jr.; award winners: Sec. Herman, Sec. Slater, Frank Raines, Rep. Bobby Rush, and other distinguished winners; Minyon Moore, Goody Marshall, Maria Echaveste, Bob Nash, Janis Kearney, Ben Johnson, Al Maldon , Tracey Thornton, Cheryl Mills, Judith Winston, Aida Alvarez, and many other members of my Administration here tonight.

Someone once said that unlike a shadow, a true friend is with you whether the sun is shining or not. The book of Proverbs tells us that a true friend & loves at all times. 8 You have been the truest of friends. I am truly grateful for your support. I am truly grateful for your support as I seek God's support. For, in the humble words of Rev. Jackson , & God is not finished with me yet. 8

And I am grateful for what the Congressional Black Caucus has done for the past 28 years to expand and enhance the promise of America. With

resonant voices and principled votes, the members of the CBC have helped lead this nation toward a single, shining ideal -- the ideal, in John Lewis's favorite phrase, of the Beloved Community. A Beloved Community that does not dwell on difference and yet gathers ever-increasing strength from its ever-expanding diversity. A Beloved Community rooted in humane laws and generous spirits. A Beloved Community in which all our children's talents are matched by their opportunities. A Beloved Community in which all Americans join hands and courageously walk with the wind, just as John Lewis's family did when storms rocked their tiny wood-frame house so many years ago.

God knows, this journey has not been easy. God knows, the winds have often blown bitter and cold. But we have walked with those winds, you and I. And today, the house we call America is safer and stronger than ever before.

Just think back on all that we have accomplished together. Together, we cut taxes for 15 million hard-pressed working families. And when the Republicans tried to slash that Earned Income Tax Credit, we said, Not a chance.

Together, we increased the minimum wage and gave 10 million Americans a well-deserved raise. Now, we're working together to increase it again. We will ensure that parents who work full time can raise their children out of poverty.

Together, we fought for -- and won -- the largest increase in children's health care in more than three decades. We expanded Head Start to help our children get off on the right foot -- and we're going to expand it even more. We have made it possible for nearly two million more women and infants to get the nutritional care they need. We gave millions of people the chance to take time off work to care for an ailing parent or to bond with a new child. We have opened the doors of higher education for every American.

Together, we created more than 100 empowerment zones and enterprise communities, because, as Rev. Jackson says, the best investment for America is America. Together, we shaped and then passed a historic crime bill that has put more police on our streets and, by stressing prevention, has given our young people new opportunities for leading positive, constructive lives.

Our hard work is paying off for the American people. Nearly 17 million new jobs. The lowest unemployment in a generation. The lowest rates of African-American and Hispanic unemployment in a generation -- and we will bring them down even more. The lowest African-American poverty rate on record. The fastest real wage growth in more than 20 years. A record number of new small businesses in each of the past 5 years. Violent crime down 6 years in a row, with overall crime rates down to their lowest levels in nearly 25 years.

None of this progress could have come without the CBC's ideas, friendship, and support. And I also want to give much-deserved credit to my staff as well. One good reason that things are looking so good for so

much of America, is because my administration looks so much like America. One of my proudest accomplishments was assembling the most diverse administration in history. We are not successful in spite of our diversity -- we are successful because of it.

Thanks to their hard work, thanks to your hard work, and thanks to the hard work of the American people, these are good times for the country. In fact, some people would say now is the time to kick back and relax. I look at it a little differently. I say, look at the book of Genesis. Joseph did not see times of plenty as a time to rest. Instead, he used the time to stockpile rich bounties of grain -- like sand of the sea. 8 He knew that times of plenty had to be the busiest, most productive, most determined times of all. So I say, thank the good Lord for our nation's good fortune. But now is the time when we must work harder than ever before to address the crucial challenges that remain.

I say we cannot rest until we save Social Security for the 21st century.

I say we cannot rest until all children in all communities have a world-class education. We must hire another 100,000 well-trained teachers, provide our children with smaller classes, and help communities build or modernize 5,000 schools. We must reward school districts for undertaking the kind of sweeping reforms we've seen in cities like Chicago. We must say to every child: We will work with you. We will help you. Raise your sights and we will not let you down.

I say we cannot rest until we protect our families with a strong, enforceable Patients' Bill of Rights. Managed care plans can help make health care more affordable for more families. But we must say to these plans: Don't turn people away from an emergency room. Don't turn people away from a specialist. Don't let an accountant make decisions only a doctor should make. Traditional care or managed care, every American deserves quality care.

I say we cannot rest while the HIV and AIDS crisis is escalating in the African-American community. That is why Sec. Shalala just announced the first installment of a comprehensive initiative on AIDS prevention, education, and care in the African-American community. Working with Maxine Waters, Louis Stokes, and other members of the CBC, we can and will do more. Working together, I know we can halt this deadly epidemic.

I say we cannot rest until we eliminate the unacceptable racial and ethnic disparities in health. We are not one nation when the rate of infant mortality, heart disease, and prostate cancer for African-Americans is nearly double the rate for white Americans. That is why earlier this year I challenged the nation to eliminate these and other health disparities by 2010, and called on the Congress to pass my \$400 million initiative to achieve this vital goal.

I say we cannot rest until every community reaps the benefits of our nation's economic growth. We must fund new empowerment zones, provide housing assistance for those leaving welfare and entering the world of work, expand funding for community development banks, step up enforcement of fair-housing laws, revitalize more urban brownfields, restore summer

jobs for our young people. We must do more to tap the unlimited potential of our cities.

I say we cannot rest while our communities are so thoroughly segregated by income and by race. The Federal Government should lead the way both in words and in deeds. So I have directed HUD Sec. Cuomo to seek a major legislative overhaul in the admissions policies for public housing to deconcentrate poverty, mix incomes, and thereby mix races. Tonight, I ask all of you to join with me in sending Congress a clear message: Do not send up a public-housing bill that does not include our admissions reforms -- reforms that will make public housing a model of One America.

I say we cannot rest until we ensure a fair and accurate Census. Some in Congress would have us ignore the best scientific methods for ensuring the most accurate count. This is unacceptable. In 1990, 4.4 percent of all African-Americans were not counted; nearly 40,000 African-American children in Los Angeles County alone were left out. In the year 2000, we can -- and must -- do better. This is a fundamental issue, a crucial civil rights issue. Every American counts. We must count every American.

I say we cannot rest until we contain the economic turmoil in Russia and Asia and help spur robust economic growth throughout the world. Growth at home depends upon growth abroad. We must try to build an adequate trade and financial system for the 21st century that will help our ailing partners as well as all Americans. We must help the IMF put out the world's economic fires by paying our fair dues. And we must help emerging economies in Latin America, Asia, and Africa to thrive.

I saw Africa's renaissance with many of you this past spring. That trip changed my life forever. Across the continent, I saw hope rising, business growing, democracy gaining strength. I believe we must work together to see that Africa's children, like America's children, have a democratic, peaceful, and prosperous future. We must expand trade and partnership by passing our Africa trade bill. We need to deal effectively with the violent conflicts that continue to plague Africa's present -- and threaten its future. And we must ensure that Africa's hospitality is not used to perpetuate acts of terrorism.

On that note, I should mention that I have asked Dr. David Satcher, America's Surgeon General, to travel to East Africa this month with a team of U.S. medical experts. The people of Kenya and Tanzania are still ailing from the devastating bomb blasts at our embassies. We will do everything we can to share our expertise with those who have shared the terrible burden of this tragedy.

And we cannot rest until we solve the oldest, most stubborn, most painful challenge we face as a nation -- the challenge of race. Yesterday, I met for the final time with my advisory board on race. I am very proud of their work. But we all know, in this year of honest dialogue, we have only just begun to peel away the outermost layers of fear and misunderstanding. We have only just begun to find ways to lift the burden of race and redeem the full promise of America.

Our founders knew we weren't perfect but we needed to strive for

perfect ideals. And they built us a country based on a Constitution that was literally made for reconciliation -- for the honorable and principled resolution of differences, rooted in a simple proposition that God created us all equal.

Our Constitution -- with its implicit call to respect and treat your neighbor as yourself -- is still our most indispensable guidepost today. We must recognize that gaps still exist between the races, and we must work to bridge them. We must build an America where discrimination is something you have to look in the history books to find.

To do that, we must make a conscious effort to overcome the urge to dwell on our differences. We must focus instead on our shared values and common humanity. That is the conscious, courageous process we have begun with our dialogue on race. And that process will continue. There must be no end to our search for common ground. I promise you this: if it takes until my last day on this Earth, I will continue to work on guiding our people across all the lines that divide us, into one America, one Beloved Community.

My friends, this is not a time to rest. This is a time to work. We are not finished with God's work. We are not finished seeking peace, and justice, and freedom, and equality, and human dignity. &Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to rest his head. 8

There is no end to this work. But there is no end to your energy, your faith, your courage, your conviction. And this is why, together, we are going to push on, pick up speed . . . to ensure we can say to every American, regardless of race or religion, origin or orientation: You have the right to grow up in peace, to go to school in safety, to build your talents and skills, to express those talents in gainful work, and to assure your family a share of America's bounty and blessings. This is God's work. This is your work. This is our work. God bless you for your efforts -- God bless you for your struggles -- God bless you for your commitment to the promise of America.
#

ARMS Email SystemRECORD TYPE: PRESIDENTIAL (NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: Jordan Tamagni (CN=Jordan Tamagni/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])

CREATION DATE/TIME:22-SEP-1998 18:26:40.00

SUBJECT: Check the Second Graf

TO: Jake Siewert (CN=Jake Siewert/OU=OPD/O=EOP @ EOP [OPD])

READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

Can we should we say something like this in the second graf?

I say we cannot rest until we contain the economic turmoil in Russia and Asia and help spur robust economic growth throughout the world. Growth at home depends upon growth abroad. We must try to build an adequate trade and financial system for the 21st century that will help our ailing partners as well as all Americans. We must help the IMF put out the world's economic fires by paying our fair dues. And we must help emerging economies in Asia, Africa, and Latin America to thrive.

Many of you came with me when I traveled to Latin America earlier this year. We saw many things together on that trip -- vibrant peoples, ancient customs, and an emerging spirit of entrepreneurship that is making Latin America one of the world's fastest growing economies. But we cannot pretend that the events in Asia can have no effect in Latin America -- and we must take steps to minimize those effects and keep the economies of Latin America growing strong.

ARMS Email SystemRECORD TYPE: PRESIDENTIAL (NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: Jon P. Jennings (CN=Jon P. Jennings/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])

CREATION DATE/TIME:22-SEP-1998 13:14:59.00

SUBJECT: 1998-09/14 POTUS remarks to council on foreign relations

TO: Eric Brown (CN=Eric Brown/OU=who/O=gov @ who [UNKNOWN])

READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

----- Forwarded by Jon P. Jennings/WHO/EOP on 09/22/98
01:14 PM -----

OLCOTT_E @ A1

09/14/98 03:54:00 PM

Record Type: Record

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

cc:

Subject: 1998-09/14 POTUS remarks to council on foreign relations

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary
(New York, New York)

For Immediate Release
1998

September 14,

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
TO THE COUNCIL ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Council on Foreign Relations Building
New York, New York

12:00 P.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much, Pete. Hillary and I
are
delighted to be here with you and Joan, and I'm glad to be joined by
Secretary
Rubin and Jim Harmon, Gene Sperling, other members of our team. I'm glad
to

see Dick Holbrooke over here. I hope, if we can overcome the inertia of Congress, he will soon be a member of the team again. (Applause.) And I thank David Rockefeller and Les Gelb and others who welcomed us here today.

The subject that I want to discuss -- let me just say one thing in advance -- I'm going to give you my best thoughts. We have been working on this for three years at some level of intensity or another, going back to the Naples G-7 meeting in the aftermath of the Mexican financial crisis. I have done everything I could do personally to reach out across the country, and indeed across the world, for any new ideas from any source. I'm going to give you my best thinking today about what we can do, but I want you to know that I'm here, and if I had my druthers, this would be about a three-hour session where I'd give this talk and then I would listen for the rest of the time.

So I want to encourage you, if you think we're right, to support us. But if you have any ideas, for goodness sake, share them, because I agree with what Pete said: this is the biggest financial challenge facing the world in a half-century. And the United States has an absolutely inescapable obligation to lead, and to lead in a way that's consistent with our values and our obligation to see that what we're doing helps lift the lives of ordinary people here at home and all around the world.

The Council on Foreign Relations has always stood for political and economic freedom, since right after World War I. And I think one of the things that has impacted all of us, and it was implicit in what Pete said, is that for the last decade the growth of freedom around the world, with more than half the people in the world living under governments of their own choosing, more than half the villages, the one million villages in China now, even electing their own governments, and this sweeping replacement of command and control economies by market economies. I think it seems to have happened so easily, so effortlessly, so inexorably, that I think we think the trend is inevitable and irreversible.

But if you consider today's economic difficulties, disruptions, and the plain old, deep, personal disappointments of now tens of millions of people around the world, it is clear to me that there is now a stark challenge not only to economic freedom, but, if unaddressed, a challenge

that could stem the rising tide of political liberty as well.

Obviously we have profound interests here. It is a great irony that we are at a moment of unsurpassed economic strength at a time of such turmoil in the world economy. We, I think all of us in this room, know that our future prosperity depends upon whether we can work with others to restore

confidence, manage change, stabilize the financial system, and spur robust global growth.

For most of the last 30 years, the United States and the rest of the world has been preoccupied by inflation, for reasons that all of you here know all too well -- and it was a good thing to be preoccupied with. Today the low and stable inflation we enjoy has been critical to our economic health, and low inflation has also contributed to that of many other nations as well. But clearly the balance of risks has now shifted, with a full quarter of the world's population living in countries with declining economic growth or negative economic growth.

Therefore, I believe the industrial world's chief priority today, plainly, is to spur growth. It seems to me there are six immediate steps we should take to help contain the current financial turmoil around the world, and then two longer-term projects in which we must be involved.

To take the immediate first, we must work with Japan, Europe, and other nations to spur growth. Second, we will expand our efforts to enable viable businesses in Asia to emerge from crippling debt burdens so they can once again contribute to growth and job creation. Third, we've asked the World Bank to double its support for the social safety net in Asia to help people who are innocent victims of financial turmoil. Fourth, we'll urge the major industrial economies to stand ready to use the \$15 billion in IMF emergency funds to help stop the financial contagion from spreading to Latin America and elsewhere. Fifth, our Ex-Im Bank, under the leadership of Jim Harmon, will intensify its efforts to generate economic activity in the developing world immediately, in the next three months. And sixth, Congress must live up to its responsibility for continued prosperity by meeting our obligations to the International Monetary Fund.

Secretary Rubin has been working with his counterparts in the G-7 to get cooperative support for several of these measures. I understand Chairman Greenspan is also consulting with his counterparts on these items as well.

As we take these immediate steps, we also must intensify our efforts to reform our trade and financial

institutions so that they can respond better to the challenges we now face and those we are likely to face in the future. We must build a stronger and more accountable global trading system, pressing forward with market-opening initiatives, but also advancing the protection of labor and environmental interests, and doing more to ensure that trade helps the lives of ordinary citizens across the globe.

Above all, we must accelerate our efforts to reform the international financial system. Today I have asked Secretary Rubin and Federal Reserve Board Chairman Greenspan to convene a major meeting of their counterparts within the next 30 days to recommend ways to adapt the international financial architecture to the 21st century.

Over the past six years, our strategy at home of fiscal discipline, investment in the skills of our people, and open trade has worked for all Americans. Unemployment at a 28-year low, inflation a 32-year low, wages rising at twice the rate of inflation after decades of stagnation. And on October 1st we'll have the first balanced budget in 29 years.

But the global economy brought a lot of that prosperity to us, and now fast-moving currents have brought or aggravated problems in Russia and Asia. They threaten emerging economies from Latin America to South Africa. With a quarter of the world's population in declining growth, we must recognize what Chairman Greenspan said the other day: we cannot forever be

an oasis of prosperity. Growth at home depends upon growth abroad. A full 30 percent of our growth, just since I became President, has been due to our expanding positive involvement in the global economy.

That's why ordinary Americans should care if Asia or Russia or South America is on solid economic footing. These people are our customers. With one-third of the growth of our economy coming from exports, much of it from emerging markets, we know that those markets will falter as their economies flatten. When the problem is widespread and perceived to be moving in the wrong direction, we have seen that our stock market can react, having a direct and immediate impact on the wealth of the American people.

These nations are also our competitors. And under conditions of decent equilibrium that is a very good thing, indeed. But when their currencies drop precipitously, the prices of their goods fall, they could undercut the sales of our own goods here at home that are otherwise profitable, dramatically increasing our trade deficit under circumstances that could cause the American people to turn away from open trade toward protectionism in a way that has terrific negative consequences long-term for our global growth objectives.

Finally, these nations are our friends, our allies and our security partners. Where economic turmoil plunges millions into sudden poverty and disrupts and disorients the lives of ordinary people, the risks of political and social instability and of a turn from democracy clearly rise. Just look at Russia. Russia is facing an economic crisis that threatens the extraordinary progress the Russian people have made in just seven years, building a new society from the ground up. The ruble and the stock market have plummeted, banks are weak, tax collections have slowed, the government has trouble paying its debts and its salaries.

Some Russians have become wealthy, but many, many more are struggling to provide for their families. I talked to some of them when I was in Russia just a few days ago.

Amid such political uncertainty and economic difficulty, some now talk of abandoning the path of reform and returning to policies of the past, even policies that have already failed. At worst, adversity in Russia could affect not only the Russian economy and prospects for our economic cooperation -- at worst, it could have an impact on our cooperation with Russia on nuclear disarmament, on fighting terrorism and the spread of weapons of mass destruction, on standing together for peace, from the Balkans to the Middle East.

Now Russia has a new Prime Minister, Mr. Primakov, who's been in office a grand total of four days. He and President Yeltsin face one of the great challenges of their time. Never has there been a more important moment to set a clear direction for the future, to affirm the commitment of Russia to democracy and to free markets, and to take decisive steps to stabilize the economy and restore investor confidence.

But if Russia is willing to take these steps, we must do everything we can to provide support to them. Because again I say, as long as ordinary people don't feel any benefits from this, in the end it's going to be difficult to sustain the direction we think the world should take.

On the other hand, we need to be honest with Russia and everyone else. No nation, rich or poor, democratic or authoritarian, can escape the fundamental economic imperatives of the global market. No nation can escape its discipline. No nation can avoid its responsibility to do its part.

,

But since all economies are increasingly interdependent, fear and uncertainty about the economy of one country can prompt investors to pull money out of other countries thousands of miles away. Markets work best when they are driven neither by excessive inflows or outflows of capital based on

indiscriminate optimism or pessimism.

Regardless of what changes in policies or institutions may be warranted, we have to say we'll only be able to help those countries who are willing to help themselves. If a nation chooses to print money indiscriminately, to wink at cronyism or corruption, to hide bad loans and protect corrupt or inefficient banks, then investors, foreign and domestic, sooner or later, will withdraw their investments, with consequences both swift and severe.

That is why we support the fundamental approach of the International Monetary Fund to extend assistance only when nations have taken responsibility, strengthening their banking systems, introducing honest accounting and open markets, awarding credit on merit instead of connections.

Still, what has been done is clearly not enough to reverse the decline in particular countries, to douse the flames of the international financial crisis, to support steady and sustainable growth in the future. In the face of this new challenge, America can and must continue to act and to lead to take the urgent steps needed today to calm the financial crisis, restart the engine of growth in Asia, and minimize the impact of financial turmoil on other nations, and to make certain that for tomorrow the institutions and rules of international finance and international trade are prepared to support steady and sustainable growth over the long term.

First and foremost, the leading economic nations must act together to spur global growth. Our strong and growing economy here has made a major contribution to global growth, just as our weak economy was holding the world back six years ago when I attended my first G-7 meeting in Tokyo and every other country said, the first thing they needed was for America to put its economic house in order. We did that.

Now I believe strongly we must maintain our fiscal discipline. It has led to lower interest rates and a huge investment and job growth. Maintaining economic growth is the best thing we can do right now, not only for the United States but for the global economy.

I would also remember that back in 1993 we had a general agreement that what was needed was America should get rid of its deficit, Europe should lower its interest rates, and Japan should open its markets. There was this general agreement that if we did all those things, we would have a remarkable resumption of growth.

Europe did moderate its interest rates and the then prime minister -- now the finance minister -- Mr. Miyazawa, oversaw a significant market opening trade agreement between the United States and Japan, which also benefited others, not just

us. And of course we got rid of our deficit. The results were quite satisfactory for several years for us.

Now Europe has to continue to pursue policies that will spur growth and keep their markets open because they, too, must be able to provide markets for Asian goods as those nations seek to find their footing. But the key here is Japan, for the second largest economy in the world, by far the biggest economy in Asia, has now gone several years without any economic growth. Thank goodness, a lot of their ordinary citizens have been able to maintain a decent life because of the wealth of their country and probably because of the enormous personal savings rate they

,

have enjoyed for many, many years now.

But it is difficult to see how any actions of the world community can be successful in restoring growth in Asia in the absence of the restoration of growth in Japan, which would enable Japan to lead the region out of its present condition. Therefore, we must support Japan and do everything we can to help create the conditions in which, together, we can all lead again, just as we did in 1993.

Their challenges are quite formidable. They have to spur domestic demand, revive a banking system, restore confidence, deregulate the economy, and open markets. And we all know all the forces that seem to be working against these developments in Japan. But I would remind you that this is a very strong, sophisticated nation full of people of knowledge and enormous achievement. It is fully capable of playing its world leadership role. I believe its business leaders right now know what needs to be done and would support it.

Next week I'm going to meet with Prime Minister Obuchi here in New York to discuss how America can support Japan's efforts to restore economic growth and investor confidence. And I will do everything I can to try to make sure that as we go forward, we have America, Europe, and Japan all doing our part to get beyond this present moment, just as we did back in 1993.

The second step we should take is to intensify our efforts to speed economic recovery in Asia. When countries like South Korea and Thailand have taken strong and responsible steps, the freefall has ended, progress is being made. But the human cost of Asia's collapse is only now being fully felt. Recent press reports have described an entire generation working its way into the middle class over 25 years, then being plummeted into poverty within a matter of months. The stories are heartbreaking -- doctors and nurses forced to live in the lobby of a closed hospital; middle class families who own their own homes, sent their children to college, traveled abroad, now living by selling their possessions.

It is in our interest to help these nations and these people recover. They will become once again our great markets and our great partners. It is also the right thing to do. We've worked with international lenders, like the IMF, to help these nations to adopt pro-growth budget, tax, and monetary policies, but clearly we're going to have to do more to restore Asian growth. We must work to lift the weight of private sector debt that has frozen the Asian economies.

Today, I'm asking Secretary Rubin to work with other financial authorities and international economic institutions to enhance efforts to explore comprehensive plans to help Asian corporations emerge from massive debt where individual firms have been swept under by systemic, national economic problems, rather than their own errors. We need to get credit flowing again. We need to get business back to making products, producing services, creating jobs.

Third, Asian businesses need assistance, but so do millions of Asian families. We must do more to establish an adequate social safety net in recovering nations. Wrenching economic transition without an adequate social safety net can sacrifice lives in the name of economic theory, and, I might add, can generate thereby so much resistance that reform grinds to a halt. If we want these countries to do tough things, we have to protect the most defenseless people in the society and we have to protect people who get hurt when they didn't do anything wrong. I think that is terribly important.

With our support, the World Bank and the Asian

Development Bank have started to deal with these challenges, but they have to expand their efforts. There is simply not enough being done. I asked them to double their aid through an expanded social compact initiative focusing on job assistance, basic needs and economic transition, on children and the elderly, on groups most vulnerable to economic change. And I want to commend Jim Wolfensohn for his efforts and his willingness to lead this expanded initiative. We have to be ready to respond immediately with financial force if necessary, to the currency crisis, if it spreads, especially if it threatens the economies of Latin America, where nations have struggled to make progress to do the right thing, only to find themselves buffeted by economic storms outside their control.

Therefore, the major economies should stand ready to activate the \$15 billion now in the emergency funds of the IMF, the general agreement to borrow, to ensure that the IMF continues to support reform and fight economic contagion.

Fifth, our Export-Import Bank will increase its commitments to specific economic development projects over the

next three years -- three months -- projects which will have concrete benefits for ordinary citizens in other countries, projects which will increase our own exports and thereby help our economy, and ones which can help to restore confidence in countries that they are not alone and that actual, specific, positive developments can occur.

Sixth, for the effort of the international community to succeed, America simply must meet its own obligations to the International Monetary Fund. After a year of financial firefighting, the IMF's resources are badly strained. Every day we don't act, we undermine the confidence the world badly needs that we are trying to restore. Congress simply must assume its responsibility for our leadership in the economy.

In my State of the Union address, I said it was better to prepare for a storm when the skies were clear than when the clouds were overhead. Well, eight months later, the clouds are closer, and you can nearly hear the thunder. Now, the Senate, by an overwhelming bipartisan majority, has, thankfully, approved our obligation to fund our part of the International Monetary Fund. But with only five weeks left in this congressional session, there is still no action from the House of Representatives.

Let me put this as plainly as I can: failure by this Congress to pay our dues to the IMF will put our own prosperity at risk. Failure to act will send a sharp signal that at a time of economic challenge, our lawmakers were unwilling to protect our workers, our businesses, our farmers from the risks of global economic change, and unwilling to maintain our leadership in building a global economy system that has benefited us more than any other nation.

Concerted action to spur growth, helping Asia through private sector debt restructuring, and a strengthened social safety net, helping to protect the rest of the world through the use of the IMF's emergency fund, increasing the activity of the Ex-Im Bank, and meeting our own obligations to the IMF -- these are the six immediate steps we want to take.

But we must also be willing to take action for the long run -- to modify the financial and trading institutions of the world to match the realities of the new economy they serve. By creating the WTO, the World Trading Organization, in 1994, we began to build a modern trading system. We must redouble our efforts to tear down barriers around the world. But as I said in Geneva last May, we must do more to ensure that spirited economic competition among nations never becomes a race to the bottom -- in environmental protection, consumer protection, or labor

standards.

We are working to open the procedures of the WTO to participation by the public and the full range of affected interests, so that people will know and see and be able to do for themselves things which will ensure that the trading system makes the world better for all the people in all the countries.

We've already completed 260 trade agreements, opening markets in areas from autos to telecommunications. Next year we will host the meeting of the world's trade ministers to set the agenda for expanded trade in the first decade in the new century.

History teaches us that at a time of worldwide difficulty, it would be folly to retreat into a protectionist shell. We must keep trade flowing among nations, but I will say again, if we want to do that, we have got to give ordinary citizens and the groups that represent them in countries all over the world the sense that it is going to be done in a fair way, consistent with nations' obligations to advance the interests of their working people and protect not only their national, but the global environment.

This November, when I meet with the leaders of the Asian economies at the APEC meeting, we will move forward to further open markets in Asia. And when Congress returns next year, I will work to pass legislation to open markets further --from trade negotiating powers to the African Trade Initiative. I will do so in a way that I believe will win broad support from a majority of both parties.

From the G-7 meeting in Halifax in 1995 in the wake of the Mexican financial crisis, to the Birmingham meeting this year, we have been working, also, with our major economic partners to plan for new financial architecture for the 21st century.

For the first time, this year we included key emerging markets in the process in a new Group of 22, recognizing their important stake in the global economy. This group has been working together for nearly a year now to improve the global financial assistance with a special focus on improving financial sectors, on transparency, and on private sector burden sharing.

I just want to emphasize again that even as we respond to the urgent alarms of the moment, we must speed the pace of this systemic work as well. That is why I have asked Secretary Rubin and Chairman Greenspan to convene the finance ministers and central bankers of the G-7 and key emerging economies in Washington within 30 days to develop a preliminary report to the heads of state by the beginning of next year on strengthening the world financial system.

We must develop policies so that countries can reap the benefits of free-flowing capital in a way that is safe and

sustainable. We must adapt the IMF so that it can more effectively confront the new types of financial crises, minimizing their frequency, severity, and human cost. We need to consider ways to extend emergency financing when countries are battling crises of confidence due to world financial distress as distinct from their own errors in policy. We must find ways to tap the energy of global markets without sentencing the world to a cycle of continued extreme crises.

For half a century now in our national economy, we have learned not to eliminate but to tame and limit the swings of boom and bust. In the 21st century, we have to find a way to do that in the global economy as well.

I've discussed this in recent days with Prime

Minister Blair of Great Britain, who is now the Chair of the G-7. He shares my belief that this is an urgent task. It is critical to the mission that he and I and Prime Minister Prodi of Italy will be discussing next week at the New York University Law School in a very interesting meeting that the First Lady and others in our administration helped to organize on how to extend

the benefits of the world economy to all and how to strengthen democracy in a time of such sweeping economic change.

Now, let me just say it all again very briefly: in short, we must improve our ability to address the current financial emergency, and we must build a system to prevent such future emergencies, whenever possible, and to blunt their impact when they do occur. There is no mission more critical to our own strength and security.

And let me say this again, what is at stake is more than the spread of free markets and their integration into the global economy. The forces behind the global economy are also those that deepen democratic liberties: the free flow of ideas and information, open borders and easy travel, the rule of law, fair and even-handed enforcement, protection for consumers, a skilled and educated work force.

Each of these things matters not only to the wealth of nations but to the health of freedom. If citizens tire of waiting for democracy and free markets to deliver a better life for them, there is a real risk that democracy and free markets, instead of continuing to thrive together, will begin to shrivel together. This would pose great risks not only for our economic interests but for our security.

We see around the world the international aggressors, the harborers of terrorists, the drug lords. Who are these countries? They're authoritarian nations without democracy

and without open markets. Nations that give their people freedom are good neighbors; when nations turn away from freedom, they turn inward toward tension, hatred, and hostility.

We now have a chance to create opportunity on a worldwide scale. The difficulties of the moment should not obscure us to the advances of the last several years. We clearly have it within our means, if we do the right things, to lift billions and billions of people around the world into a global middle class and into participation in global democracy and genuine efforts toward peace and reconciliation. That is a possibility, but recent events show it is not a certainty.

At this moment, therefore, the United States is called upon once again to lead -- to organize the forces of a committed world; to channel the unruly energies of the global economy into positive avenues; to advance our interests, reinforce our values, enhance our security.

In this room, I think it is not too simple to say we know what to do. The World War II generation did it for us 50 years ago. Now, it is time for us to rise to our responsibility, as America has called upon to do so often so many times in the past. We can, if we do that, redeem the promise of the global economy and strengthen our own nation for a new century.

Thank you very much. (Applause.)

END

12:34 P.M. EDT

Message Sent

To:

Lori E. Abrams
Jeannetta P. Allen
Lori L. Anderson
Brenda M. Anders
Eli G. Attie @ OVP@EOP
Patrick Aylward
Robin J. Bachman
Kyle M. Baker
Karen L. Barbuschak
Beverly J. Barnes
Brian A. Barreto
Mark H. Bartholomew
David S. Beaubaire
Paul E. Begala
Mark J. Bernstein
Marsha E. Berry
antony j. blinken
Alexander L. Boyle
Lanny A. Breuer

Patrick E. Briggs
Erin L. Brinkman
Katharine Button
Robin J. Bachman
Barbara D. Woolley
Bradley M. Campbell
Alejandro G. Cabrera @ ovp@eop
Dominique L. Cano
Laura Capps
Elizabeth A. Castellani
Joseph W. Cerrell @ OVP@EOP
David K. Chai
Andrei H. Cherny @ ovp@eop
Nanda Chitre
Delia A. Cohen
Julianne B. Corbett
Michelle Crisci
Lisa R. Dass
Elliot J. Diringier
Daniel W. Burkhardt
Diane Ikemiyashiro
Dorian V. Weaver
Dorinda A. Salcido
Douglas Matties
Anne M. Edwards
Rahm Emanuel
Patricia M. Ewing @ OVP@EOP
Joseph C. Fanaroff
Jennifer Ferguson
Julie A. Fernandes
Martha Foley
Carmen B. Fowler
Grace A. Garcia
KARA GERHARDT
Jessica L. Gibson
Adam W. Goldberg
Dario J. Gomez
David R. Goodfriend
Peter D. Greenberger
John A. Gribben
Donald Goldberg
Lawrence J. Haas @ OVP@EOP
William C. Haymes
Maureen A. Hudson
Sheyda Jahanbani
Sheyda Jahanbani
Thomas D. Janenda
david t. johnson
Wayne C. Johnson
Michele Jolin
James M. Teague
Jon P. Jennings
Julie E. Mason
David E. Kalbaugh

Jonathan A. Kaplan
Mark A. Kitchens
Catherine T. Kitchen
Sarah S. Freeman
Jim Kohlenberger @ OVP@EOP
Kris M Balderston
Sara M. Latham
Christopher J. Lavery
Christopher S. Lehane @ OVP@EOP
Joseph P. Lockhart
Laura D. Schwartz
Laura K. Capps
Lisa J. Levin
Christine N. Macy
michael d. malone
Laura S. Marcus
Tanya E. Martin
Doris O. Matsui
Douglas R. Matties
Emory L. Mayfield
Andrew J. Mayock
Anne E. McGuire
Estela Mendoza
Noa A. Meyer
R. Scott Michaud
Elisa Millsap
Cheryl D. Mills
Rajiv Y. Mody
megan moloney
Kevin Moran
Melissa M. Murray
Reuben L. Musgrave Jr.
Mindy E. Myers
Sean P. Maloney
Michael V. Terrell
Steven J. Naplan
Mark D. Neschis
Elizabeth R. Newman
Nathan B. Naylor @ ovp@eop
Neera Tanden
Jonathan Orszag
Eleanor S. Parker
Carole A. Parmelee
Sally P. Paxton
Julia M. Payne
Matthew W. Pitcher
Phillip Caplan
Nicole R. Rabner
Brian A. Reich @ OVP@EOP
Linda Ricci
Renee C. Riley
Robin M. Roland
Cecilia E. Rouse
Charles F. Ruff

Peter Rundlet
Virginia N. Rustique
Evan Ryan
Jodi R. Sakol @ OVP@EOP
G. Timothy Saunders
Jason H. Schechter
Judithanne V. Scourfield
BROOKS SCOVILLE
Maya Seiden
Barbara Semedo
Ruby Shamir
Jeffrey A. Shesol
June Shih
Robert M. Shireman
Jake Siewert
Dawn L. Smalls
Brian D. Smith
Craig T. Smith
jonathan e. smith
Mary L. Smith
Richard Socarides
Douglas B. Sosnik
Maria E. Soto
Chandler G. Spaulding
Elisabeth Steele
Aviva Steinberg
Todd Stern
Dana C. Strand
Diane A. Stumpf
Michael J. Sullivan
Jonathan H. Schnur
Tracy F. Sisser
Sylvia M. Mathews
Jordan Tamagni
Sandra L. Tijerina
Amy W. Tobe
Barry J. Toiv
Serena C. Torrey
Karen Tramontano
June G. Turner
Thurgood Marshall Jr
Dag Vega
Virginia Apuzzo
Michael Waldman
Angelina Walker @ ovp@eop
Essence P. Washington
Glen M. Weiner
Robert S. Weiner
Peter A. Weissman
Lowell A. Weiss
Woyneab M. Wondwossen
Debra S. Wood
William H. White Jr.
SUNTUM_M @ A1@CD@LNGTWY

SUNTUM_M @ A1@CD@LNGTWY
meglynn @ usia.gov@INET@LNGTWY
tingen-terrie @ dol.gov@INET@LNGTWY
backup @ wilson.ai.mit.edu@INET@LNGTWY
wh-outbox-distr @ pub.pub.whitehouse.gov@INET@LNGTWY
BARTHOLOW_T @ A1@CD@LNGTWY
BUDIG_N @ A1@CD@LNGTWY
CROWLEY_P @ A1@CD@LNGTWY
CUTLER_L @ A1@CD@LNGTWY
DICKEY_L @ A1@CD@LNGTWY
FORDE_R @ A1@CD@LNGTWY
GRAY_W @ A1@CD@LNGTWY
KTORPEY @ AOL.COM@INET@LNGTWY
MOFFETT_J @ A1@CD@LNGTWY
PR_U=TDIXON@PR_L=AVUOEOb@MRP@LNGTWY
RUBIN_E @ A1@CD@LNGTWY
NAPLAN_S @ A1@CD@LNGTWY
SMITH_BD @ A1@CD@LNGTWY
TCSmith @ dol.gov@INET@LNGTWY
WOZNIAK_N @ A1@CD@LNGTWY
cmbeach @ msn.com@INET@LNGTWY
julie_green @ ed.gov@INET@LNGTWY
klasky_helaine @ ustr.gov@INET@LNGTWY
nreyn @ OPIC.GOV@CD@LNGTWY
skgmd @ umich.edu@INET@LNGTWY
tingen-terri @ dol.gov@INET@LNGTWY
usia01 @ access.digex.com@INET@LNGTWY
1=US@2=WESTERN UNION@3=@5=ATT.COM@*ELN\62955104@MRX@LNGTWY
62955104 @ eln.attmail.com@INET@LNGTWY
INFOMGT @ A1@CD@LNGTWY
newsdesk @ usnewswire.com@INET@LNGTWY
usnwire @ access.digex.com@INET@LNGTWY
Pub_Arch @ oa.eop.gov@INET@LNGTWY
Releases @ pub.pub.whitehouse.gov@INET@LNGTWY
Releases @ www3.whitehouse.gov@INET@LNGTWY

ARMS Email SystemRECORD TYPE: PRESIDENTIAL (NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: Jordan Tamagni (CN=Jordan Tamagni/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])

CREATION DATE/TIME:22-SEP-1998 19:56:39.00

SUBJECT: Here

TO: Jake Siewert (CN=Jake Siewert/OU=OPD/O=EOP @ EOP [OPD])

READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

I say we cannot rest until we contain that economic turmoil and help spur robust economic growth throughout the world. Growth at home depends upon growth abroad. That is why we must help emerging economies in Asia, Africa, and Latin America to thrive. Many of you came with me when I traveled to Latin America earlier this year. We saw many things together on that trip -- vibrant people, ancient customs, and an emerging spirit of entrepreneurship that is making Latin America one of the world's fastest growing economies.

That's why I have urged the major industrial economies to stand ready to use the \$15 billion in emergency IMF funds to help stop the financial contagion from spreading to Latin America and elsewhere. And we must help the IMF put out the world's economic fires by paying our fair dues. We must try to build an adequate trade and financial system for the 21st century that will help our ailing partners as well as all Americans. We must not forget that the problems of people around the world affect us here at home -- we have an obligation to help.

ARMS Email SystemRECORD TYPE: PRESIDENTIAL (NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: Jake Siewert (CN=Jake Siewert/OU=OPD/O=EOP [OPD])

CREATION DATE/TIME:22-SEP-1998 15:27:15.00

SUBJECT: Some Help

TO: Jordan Tamagni (CN=Jordan Tamagni/OU=WHO/O=EOP @ EOP [WHO])

READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

Now fast-moving currents have and aggravated problems in Russia and Asia, and now threaten emerging economies from Latin America to South Africa. I say we cannot rest until we contain that economic turmoil and help spur robust economic growth throughout the world. Growth at home depends upon growth abroad. That is why we must help emerging economies in Asia, Africa, and Latin America to thrive. That's why I have urged the major industrial economies to stand ready to use the \$15 billion in emergency IMF funds to help stop the financial contagion from spreading to Latin America and elsewhere. And we must help the IMF put out the world's economic fires by paying our fair dues. We must try to build an adequate trade and financial system for the 21st century that will help our ailing partners as well as all Americans.

ARMS Email SystemRECORD TYPE: PRESIDENTIAL (NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: Jake Siewert (CN=Jake Siewert/OU=OPD/O=EOP [OPD])

CREATION DATE/TIME:22-SEP-1998 20:03:29.00

SUBJECT: Here

TO: Jordan Tamagni (CN=Jordan Tamagni/OU=WHO/O=EOP @ EOP [WHO])
READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

How about "stronger" instead of "adequate"

----- Forwarded by Jake Siewert/OPD/EOP on 09/22/98 08:02
PM -----

Jordan Tamagni
09/22/98 07:55:50 PM
Record Type: Record

To: Jake Siewert/OPD/EOP
cc:
Subject: Here

I say we cannot rest until we contain that economic turmoil and help spur robust economic growth throughout the world. Growth at home depends upon growth abroad. That is why we must help emerging economies in Asia, Africa, and Latin America to thrive. Many of you came with me when I traveled to Latin America earlier this year. We saw many things together on that trip -- vibrant people, ancient customs, and an emerging spirit of entrepreneurship that is making Latin America one of the world's fastest growing economies.

That's why I have urged the major industrial economies to stand ready to use the \$15 billion in emergency IMF funds to help stop the financial contagion from spreading to Latin America and elsewhere. And we must help the IMF put out the world's economic fires by paying our fair dues. We must try to build an adequate trade and financial system for the 21st century that will help our ailing partners as well as all Americans. We must not forget that the problems of people around the world affect us here at home -- we have an obligation to help.

ARMS Email SystemRECORD TYPE: PRESIDENTIAL (NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: Jordan Tamagni (CN=Jordan Tamagni/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])

CREATION DATE/TIME:23-SEP-1998 18:07:39.00

SUBJECT: Please Make Sure Maria and Janet See

TO: Mindy E. Myers (CN=Mindy E. Myers/OU=WHO/O=EOP @ EOP [WHO])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Leslie Bernstein (CN=Leslie Bernstein/OU=WHO/O=EOP @ EOP [WHO])
READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:
Draft 9/23/98 6:00pm
Jordan Tamagni

PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON
REMARKS FOR CONGRESSIONAL HISPANIC CAUCUS INSTITUTE DINNER
WASHINGTON, DC
September 23, 1998

Acknowledgments: SBA Administrator Alvarez; Sec. Richardson; Sec. Caldera
; Sec. Riley; Sec. Herman; Sec. Cuomo; Sec. Daley; Sec. Shalala; Sec.
Slater; ONDCP Dir. McCaffrey; AG Reno; Members of the Hispanic Caucus;
other Members of Congress.

Before we begin, I want to say a word about Hurricane Georges [zhorzhe].
In Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Haiti, and the Dominican
Republic, businesses and homes have been swept away, and, tragically,
lives have been lost. Tonight, our thoughts and prayers are with the
victims of this terrible storm. FEMA Director James Lee Witt has told me
that we are already assisting in the clean up effort, and helping the
people of Florida to prepare for the hurricane. And will be there every
step of the way to help families and communities to rebuild.

Now, I'd like to pay tribute to the two men we are honoring here
tonight -- Rep. Henry Gonzalez, and Rep. Esteban Torres. With his
stubborn insistence on standing on the House floor and standing up for
principle, & Henry B8 he has been more than a pioneer -- he has been a
conscience for the Congress and the country. Esteban Torres was not
content merely to walk on a trail blazed by leaders like Henry -- he has
widened it. From his days as a UAW shop steward to his days as chair of
this caucus, he has fought tirelessly to make certain that economic growth
benefits all working people, not only of this country but of Mexico as
well.

For six years in a row, I have looked forward to coming here -- to
join in the energy and the drive and the dedication of the fastest growing
community in America. I know that the Vice President was with many of you
at the Hispanic Heritage Awards. In so many ways, that rich heritage --
its values of family and faith, community and commitment -- is America,s

heritage, too. That legacy is at the heart of everything the Hispanic Caucus stands for -- and I have been honored to work alongside you. I'd like to reflect on all we have accomplished together.

Together, we expanded the Earned Income Tax Credit and helped cut taxes for 15 million hard-working families -- including more than 1 million Hispanics. When the Republicans tried to slash it we said no. Together, we increased the minimum wage to give 10 million Americans -- including nearly 2 million Hispanic Americans -- a well-deserved raise. Now, I think it's time to increase the minimum wage again, and I am disappointed that yesterday the Senate voted against doing just that. We value families -- we should raise the value of the minimum wage.

Together we fought for and won the biggest increase in children's health care in more than three decades, to insure up to 5 million uninsured children across this country. We expanded the Head Start program to help our children get off on the right foot. We passed the Family and Medical Leave Act that gave millions of people the chance to take time off from work to care for an ailing parent or a newborn child.

Together, we have opened the doors of higher education with the HOPE Scholarship, with more Pell Grants, with tax credits for all higher education, with deductible student loans. Because of our efforts, everyone who is willing to work hard can go to college.

Together with the Vice President's leadership, we created more than 100 empowerment zones and enterprise communities, established community development banks, doubled small business loans to minorities and tripled them to women. In fact, businesses owned and operated by Hispanic women are the fastest growing category of small business in America today. Together we shaped and passed the historic crime bill that is taking guns off our streets, putting more police on our streets and more prevention to keep our children out of trouble in the first place.

Together, we have built a stronger America: nearly 17 million jobs ... the lowest unemployment rate in 28 years ... the lowest Hispanic unemployment rate in a generation ... the fastest real wage growth in 20 years ... a record number of new small businesses every year ... violent crime down a record six years in a row ... and the lowest crime rate in 25 years. None of this could have happened without the leadership, the friendship, the ideas of the CHC.

I also want to give much-deserved credit to my staff [Maria Echaveste, Mickey Ibarra, Janet Murguia, Maritza Rivera, Estela Mendoza, to name only a few]. One of my proudest accomplishments has been assembling the most diverse administration in history. We are not successful in spite of our diversity -- we are successful because of it.

Now, we must decide what we should do with this moment of prosperity and progress -- how can we use the resources it is producing and the self-confidence it is generating -- to build a brighter future for all our people?

Some people think that now is the time to kick back and relax.

But there is an old Mexican proverb that says: &El que no siembra, no levanta8 [ell kay no see-EM-bra no leh-VAHN-tah] -- &He who doesn,t sow, doesn,t get a crop.8 We must use this time to sow the seeds of the future, and build the America we want for our children. And we cannot afford to rest.

I say we cannot rest until we save Social Security for the 21st Century. In a few days, we will have the first balanced budget and surplus in 29 years. I believe we must not squander one penny of that surplus until we have saved Social Security. Some say we should use the surplus to pay for a tax cut. My balanced budget proves that we can reserve the surplus, save Social Security, and still have targeted tax cuts for education, the environment, school construction, and child care. And every one of those tax cuts is paid for in my balanced budget.

We cannot rest until all children in all communities have a world-class education. My balanced budget will help to hire 100,000 more teachers ... to reduce class size in the early grades to 18 ... to build or modernize 5,000 schools ... to hook up all our classrooms, even in the poorest neighborhoods, to the Internet ... to reward school districts for undertaking the kind of sweeping reforms we,ve seen in cities like Chicago ...to hire 35,000 more teachers to teach in the inner city and other struggling communities.

You and I know that education is the key to opportunity. But you also know that far, far too many Hispanic young people are not getting the education they need to succeed. That is why I established the Presidential Advisory Commission on Educational Excellence for Hispanics. And that is why I have proposed a \$600 million Hispanic Education Action Plan: to transform schools with high dropout rates ...to support Hispanic colleges ... to help adults who want to learn English or go back and get a diploma ... to help all Latinos, young and old, to reach for their dreams.

And you and I know our children must master English. That is why I fought for and won a 35% increase in bilingual education funding in the balanced budget agreement. This will help 1,000 school districts all across America to improve teacher training and add extra classes for students who have not yet mastered English. And I am proposing that we double that investment in teacher training this year, and help communities to train 20,000 teachers to help children with limited English.

Let me be clear: I believe that being able to speak more than one language is a gift -- but unless our children learn English, they will never reach their full potential. We shouldn,t have to fight divisive political battles to do what is right for our children.

I say we cannot rest until we protect our families with a strong, enforceable Patients, Bill of Rights. Managed care can help make health care more affordable for more families. But with 160 million Americans in managed care today, we must say to these plans: Don,t turn people away from an emergency room. Don,t turn people away from a specialist. Do n,t let an accountant make decisions only a doctor should make. Traditional care or managed care, every American deserves quality care.

We cannot rest while our communities are segregated by income and by race . The Federal Government should lead the way both in words and in deeds. I have asked Sec. Cuomo to crack down on unfair housing practices by doubling the number of housing discrimination cases. I have also directed Secretary Cuomo to work with you to undertake a major legislative overhaul so our public housing admissions policies help deconcentrate poverty, mix incomes, and thereby mix people of all races and ethnicities. We cannot live together as a nation if we don't live together in our communities. Let's work together on this.

We cannot rest until every community, every neighborhood, every family can reap the benefits of our economic growth. That is why we must fund the empowerment initiatives the Vice President and Secretary Cuomo have worked so hard for, from expanding funding for community development banks and revitalizing urban brownfield areas, to restoring summer jobs for our young people, and providing housing assistance for people moving from welfare to work.

We should all be proud that we have the smallest percentage of our people on welfare in 29 years -- with nearly 4 million fewer people since I signed the welfare reform bill into law. We should all be proud that we made good on our promise to restore some benefits to legal immigrants. But we know that there is much to be done.

The pressures to move from welfare to work are intense, and the transition can be especially difficult for Hispanic women, many of whom lack language as well as job skills. I am committed to working with you to ensure that every individual has the tools to make this transition. That's why I fought for a \$3 billion Welfare to Work fund in the balanced budget, and \$50 million more for Welfare to Work transportation. And that is why I have proposed a \$21 billion child care initiative, to add to the \$4 billion we fought for in the Welfare bill. We can do this -- but we cannot rest.

I say we cannot rest until every American's voice can be heard in the halls of power -- that is one very good reason why we must ensure a fair and accurate Census. Some in Congress would have us ignore the best scientific methods for ensuring the most accurate count. This is unacceptable. In 1990, 5 percent of Hispanics were not counted; nearly 70,000 Hispanic children in Los Angeles County alone were left out. In the year 2000, we can -- and must -- do better. This is a fundamental issue, a crucial civil rights issue. Every American counts. We must count every American.

And while we're at it -- let's give the 4 million people of Puerto Rico the right to choose their own status. In December, they will go to the polls. The Senate Republican leaders say they will consider the results of that referendum. I say we must respect the results of that referendum -- and work to implement the choice the Puerto Rican people make. Puerto Ricans are U.S., and nationhood, statehood, or status quo, the decision must be theirs to make.

We cannot rest until we contain economic turmoil in Russia and Asia and help spur economic growth throughout the world. Growth at home depends

upon growth abroad. Many of you came with me when I traveled to Latin America earlier this year, and we saw the spirit of entrepreneurship that is making Latin America one of the world's fastest growing economies. I have urged the major industrial economies to stand ready to use the \$15 billion in emergency IMF funds to help stop the financial contagion from spreading to Latin America and elsewhere. And we must further help the IMF by paying our fair share.

We know that expanding trade is good for our economy, but we must not lose sight of the fact that some communities are not sharing fully in benefits of trade. I have proposed a significant expansion of funds for the development bank that helps these communities. We need to work together to ensure that we get these funds. Trade is good for America -- we need to make sure that it is good for every American.

Finally, we cannot rest until we solve the oldest, most stubborn, most painful challenge of our nation -- the lingering problems and limitless possibilities of our growing diversity. Last week, for the final time, I met with my Advisory Board on Race and received their report. I am proud of their work, the guidance they have given us for policy, for dialogue, for specific practices in every community in this country. But we know we have only just begun a work that will take a lifetime; only just begun to find ways finally to lift the burden of racial and ethnic discrimination, and redeem the full promise of America.

More than any other nation on earth, America has drawn our strength from our diversity, as wave after wave of immigrants have come here in search of a better life. Today, we are the most ethnically and racially diverse democracy in the history of the world. With nearly one million people coming legally to America every year from countries all over the world, we must ask ourselves: will these changes strengthen and unite us, or weaken and divide us?

I believe that immigration is not only good for America -- it is America. It is our history -- it is our heritage -- and it is our hope for the future. As ethnic conflicts tear countries and families apart around the world, we are proving that a diverse people can live together in peace, learning from each another, drawing on each other's strengths, building on one another's accomplishments.

We must welcome new immigrants, and do everything we can to encourage them to learn our language, embrace our way of life, and become full participants in our society by becoming citizens. That is why I have called on the INS to streamline and improve the naturalization process. My balanced budget would help reduce the backlog of applications and improve customer service. When people take responsibility to become citizens, we should do everything we can to help them -- whether they work in a Fortune 500 company, in a department store, or in the fields. They deserve a chance -- and we must give it to them.

America has always stood proud as a nation dedicated to widening the circle of opportunity, to deepening the meaning of our freedom, and to forming that more perfect union. One of the most passionate advocates for those ideals our country has ever known -- indeed, one of our greatest

American heroes -- was Cesar Chavez. Thirty years ago, he met a kindred spirit in Robert Kennedy, who had traveled to California where Chavez lay, fasting in penance for the violence caused by the struggle for farm workers rights. That night, Bobby Kennedy and Cesar Chavez broke bread together in a Thanksgiving Mass. Someone read the words Chavez was too weak to speak -- words I would like to share with you tonight: &Our lives are all that really belong to us, so it is how we use our lives that determines what kind of people we are.⁸ That night, Robert Kennedy made up his mind to run for President.

My friends, you and I are bound together by our commitment to use our lives to make this country a better place for all our people, to build a better world for our children. This is not a time to rest. It is time to work. I am honored to share this precious moment in time with all of you, and to work together to build that better world.

Thank you and God bless you all.

ARMS Email SystemRECORD TYPE: PRESIDENTIAL (NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: Jordan Tamagni (CN=Jordan Tamagni/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])

CREATION DATE/TIME:23-SEP-1998 12:00:45.00

SUBJECT: CHC -- if you're interested

TO: Joseph C. Fanaroff (CN=Joseph C. Fanaroff/OU=WHO/O=EOP @ EOP [WHO])

READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

Draft 9/23/98 12:00pm

Jordan Tamagni

PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON
REMARKS FOR CONGRESSIONAL HISPANIC CAUCUS DINNER
WASHINGTON, DC
September 23, 1998

Acknowledgments: TK

Before we begin, I want to say a word about the terrible hurricane that has ripped through the Caribbean. [INSERT TK]

Now, I'd like to pay tribute to the two men we are honoring here tonight -- Representative Henry Gonzalez, and Representative Esteban Torres. &Henry B8 was more than a pioneer -- more than a brilliant prophet on the need to make our economy work for ordinary people. With his stubborn insistence on standing on the House floor and standing up for principle, he has been a conscience for the Congress and the country. And we are very grateful. Esteban Torres is the best of the newest generation. From his days as a UAW shop steward to his days as chair of this caucus, he has fought for working people of all backgrounds. He has fought to make certain that economic growth benefits the people not only of this country but of Mexico as well.

For the six years in a row, I have looked forward to coming here -- to join in the energy and the commitment and the creativity of the fastest growing community in America. I know that the Vice President spent the evening with many of you last night at the Hispanic Heritage Awards. In so many ways, that rich heritage -- its values of family, faith, and community, of hard work, purpose, and intelligence patriotism -- that is America's heritage, too. That legacy is at the heart of everything the Hispanic Caucus stands for -- and I have been honored to work alongside you for six years now. I'd like to take a moment to think back on all that we have accomplished together.

Together, we expanded the Earned Income Tax Credit and helped cut taxes for 15 million hard-working families -- including more than 1 million Hispanics. When the Republicans tried to slash it we said no. Together, we increased the minimum wage to give 10 million Americans. -- including nearly 2 million Hispanic Americans -- a well-deserved

raise. Now, I think it's time to increase the minimum wage again, and I am disappointed that yesterday the Senate voted against doing just that. We value families -- we should raise the value of the minimum wage.

Together we fought for and won the biggest increase in children's health care in more than three decades, to insure up to 5 million uninsured children across this country. We expanded the Head Start program to help our children get off on the right foot. We passed the Family and Medical Leave Act that gave millions of people the chance to take time off from work to care for an ailing parent or a newborn child.

Together, we have opened the doors of higher education with the HOPE Scholarship, with more Pell Grants, with tax credits for all higher education, with deductible student loans. Because of our efforts, everyone who is willing to work hard can go to college.

Together with the Vice President's leadership, we created more than 100 empowerment zones and enterprise communities, established community development banks, doubled small business loans to minorities and tripled them to women. In fact, businesses owned and operated by Hispanic women are the fastest growing category of small business in America today.

Together we shaped and passed the historic crime bill that is taking guns off our streets, putting more police on our streets and more prevention to keep our children out of trouble in the first place.

Together, we have built a stronger America: nearly 17 million jobs ... the lowest unemployment rate in 28 years ... the lowest Hispanic unemployment rate in a generation ... the fastest real wage growth in 20 years ... a record number of new small businesses every year ... violent crime down a record six years in a row ... and the lowest crime rate in 25 years. None of this could have happened without the leadership, the friendship, the ideas of the CHC.

I also want to give much-deserved credit to my staff. One good reason that things are looking so good for so much of America, is because my administration looks so much like America. One of my proudest accomplishments was assembling the most diverse administration in history -- as the Vice President just said, the greatest number of Hispanic American appointments in history. We are not successful in spite of our diversity -- we are successful because of it.

Now, we must decide what we should do with this moment of prosperity and progress -- how can we use the resources it is producing and the self-confidence it is generating -- to build a brighter future for all our people?

Some people think that now is the time to kick back and relax. But there is an old Mexican proverb that says: *&El que no siembra, no levanta* [ell kay no see-EM-bra no leh-VAHN-tah] -- He who doesn't sow, doesn't get a crop. We must use this time to sow the seeds of the future, and build the America we want for our children. And we cannot afford to rest.

I say we cannot rest until we save Social Security for the 21st Century. In a few days, we'll have the first balanced budget and surplus in 29 years. I believe we must not spend one penny of that surplus until we have saved Social Security. Some say we should use the surplus to pay for a tax cut. My balanced budget proves that we can reserve the surplus and still have targeted tax cuts for education ... to build and repair old schools ... to help families pay for child care ...to help small businesses take out pensions for their employees. And every one of those tax cuts is paid for in my balanced budget.

I say we cannot rest until all children in all communities have a world-class education. My balanced budget will help to hire 100,000 more teachers ... to reduce class size in the early grades to 18 ... to build or modernize 5,000 schools ... to hook up all our classrooms, even in the poorest neighborhoods, to the Internet ... to reward school districts for undertaking the kind of sweeping reforms we've seen in cities like Chicago ...to hire 35,000 more teachers to teach in the inner city and other struggling communities.

You and I know that education is the key to opportunity. But you also know that far, far too many Hispanic young people are not getting the education they need to succeed. That is why I have appointed the first-ever Presidential Advisory Commission on Educational Excellence for Hispanics. And that is why I have proposed the first-ever Hispanic Education Action Plan -- to reach out to Hispanic young people, and encourage them to stay in high school, to go on to college, and to reach for their dreams.

And you and I know that unless they learn English, those young people may never reach their full potential. That is why I fought for and won a 35% increase in funding for bilingual education in the balanced budget agreement. This will help 1,000 school districts all across America to improve teacher training and add extra classes for students who have not yet mastered English. And I am proposing that we double that investment in teacher training this year. We shouldn't have to fight divisive political battles to do what is right for our children.

I say we cannot rest until we protect our families with a strong, enforceable Patients, Bill of Rights. Managed care can help make health care more affordable for more families. But with 160 million Americans in managed care today, we must say to these plans: Don't turn people away from an emergency room. Don't turn people away from a specialist. Don't let an accountant make decisions only a doctor should make. Traditional care or managed care, every American deserves quality care.

We cannot rest while our communities are so thoroughly segregated by income and by race. The Federal Government should lead the way both in words and in deeds. First, we must put an end to unfair housing practices wherever and whenever they occur. I have asked HUD Secretary Cuomo to double the number of anti-housing discrimination cases. Next, I have directed Secretary Cuomo to work with you to undertake a major legislative overhaul so that our public housing admissions policies help deconcentrate poverty, mix incomes, and thereby mix people of all races and

ethnicities. We cannot live together as a nation if we don't live together in our communities.

So let's pledge tonight to join together in the fight for public housing legislation that includes our historic admissions reforms -- reforms that will tear down the walls that divide and integrate public housing for generations to come.

We cannot rest until every community, every neighborhood, every block, every family has the chance to reap the benefits of our economic growth. That is why we must fund the empowerment initiatives the Vice President and Secretary Cuomo have worked so hard for, to expand funding for the community development banks, to step up enforcement of fair housing laws, to revitalize more urban brownfield areas, to restore summer jobs for our young people, and to provide housing assistance for those leaving welfare and entering work.

And we cannot rest until we have done even more to break the cycle of welfare dependency and despair. We should all be proud that we have the smallest percentage of our people on welfare in 29 years -- with nearly 4 million fewer people since I signed the welfare reform bill into law. We should all be proud that we made good on our promise to restore some benefits to legal immigrants. But we know that there is much to be done.

The pressures to move from welfare to work are intense -- and we know the transition can be particularly difficult for Hispanic women, many of whom lack language as well as job skills. I am committed to working with you to ensure that every individual has the tools to make this transition. That's why I fought for a \$3 billion Welfare to Work fund in the balanced budget, and \$50 million more for Welfare to Work transportation. And that is why I have proposed a \$21 billion child care initiative, to add to the \$4 billion we fought for in the Welfare bill.

I say we cannot rest until every American's voice can be heard in the halls of power -- that is one very good reason why we must ensure a fair and accurate Census. Some in Congress would have us ignore the best scientific methods for ensuring the most accurate count. This is unacceptable. In 1990, 5 percent of Hispanics were not counted; nearly 70,000 Hispanic children in Los Angeles County alone were left out. In the year 2000, we can -- and must -- do better. This is a fundamental issue, a crucial civil rights issue. Every American counts. We must count every American.

And while we're at it -- let's give the 4 million people of Puerto Rico the right to choose their own status. In December, they will go to the polls. The Senate Republican leaders say they will consider the results of that referendum. I say we should be bound by the results of that referendum. Puerto Ricans are American citizens -- let Puerto Rican people decide.

We cannot rest until we contain the economic turmoil in Russia and Asia and help spur robust economic growth throughout the world. Growth at home depends upon growth abroad. Many of you came with me when I traveled to Latin America earlier this year. We saw many things on that trip --

vibrant people, ancient customs, and a spirit of entrepreneurship that is making Latin America one of the world's fastest growing economies. That is why I have urged the major industrial economies to stand ready to use the \$15 billion in emergency IMF funds to help stop the financial contagion from spreading to Latin America and elsewhere. And we must help the IMF put out the world's economic fires by paying our fair share.

We know that expanding trade is good for our economy, but we must not lose sight of the fact that some communities are not sharing fully in benefits of trade. That is why I have proposed a significant expansion of funds for the development bank that helps these communities. We need to work together to ensure that we get these funds. Trade is good for America -- we need to make sure that it is good for every American.

Finally, we cannot rest until we solve the oldest, most stubborn, most painful challenge of our nation -- the lingering problems and limitless possibilities of our growing diversity. Last week, for the final time, I met with my Advisory Board on Race and received their report. I am proud of their work, the guidance they have given us for policy, for dialogue, for specific practices in every community in this country. But we know we have only just begun a work that will take a lifetime; only just begun to find ways finally to lift the burden of racial and ethnic discrimination, and redeem the full promise of America.

More than any other nation on earth, America has drawn our strength from our diversity, as wave after wave of immigrants have come to our shores in search of a better life for their families. Today, we are the most ethnically and racially diverse democracy in the history of the world. With nearly one million people coming legally to America every year from countries all over the world, we must ask ourselves: will these changes strengthen and unite us, or weaken and divide us?

I believe that immigration is not only good for America -- it is America. It is our history -- it is our heritage -- and it is our hope for the future. As ethnic conflicts tear countries and families apart around the world, we can prove that a diverse people can live together in peace, learning from each another, drawing on each other's strengths, building on one another's accomplishments.

We must welcome new immigrants, and do everything we can to encourage them to learn our language, embrace our way of life, and become full participants in our society by becoming citizens. That is why I have called on the INS to streamline and improve the naturalization process. My balanced budget would help reduce the backlog of applications and improve customer service. When people take responsibility to become citizens, we should do everything we can to help them -- whether they work in a Fortune 500 company, in a department store, or in the fields, as so many have before them. They deserve a chance -- and we must give it to them.

America has always stood proud as a nation dedicated to widening the circle of opportunity, to deepening the meaning of our freedom, and to forming that more perfect union. One of the most passionate advocates for those ideals our country has ever known -- indeed, one of our greatest

American heroes -- was Cesar Chavez. Thirty years ago, he met a kindred spirit in Robert Kennedy, who had traveled to California where Chavez lay, fasting in penance for the violence caused by the struggle for farm workers rights. That night, Bobby Kennedy and Cesar Chavez broke bread together in a Thanksgiving Mass. Someone had to read these words Chavez was too weak to speak, words I would like to share with you tonight. &Our lives are all that really belong to us, so it is how we use our lives that determines what kind of people we are.⁸ That night, Robert Kennedy made up his mind to run for President.

My friends, you and I are bound together by our commitment to use our lives to make this country a better place for all our people, to build a better world for our children. This is not a time to rest. It is time to work. I am honored to share this precious moment in time with all of you, and to work together to build that better world.

Thank you and God bless you all.

ARMS Email SystemRECORD TYPE: PRESIDENTIAL (NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: Leslie Bernstein (CN=Leslie Bernstein/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])

CREATION DATE/TIME:23-SEP-1998 18:11:42.00

SUBJECT: Changes in Bold

TO: Maria Echaveste (CN=Maria Echaveste/OU=WHO/O=EOP @ EOP [WHO])

READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

----- Forwarded by Leslie Bernstein/WHO/EOP on 09/23/98
06:11 PM -----

Jordan Tamagni
09/23/98 06:08:27 PM
Record Type: Record

To: Leslie Bernstein/WHO/EOP, Mindy E. Myers/WHO/EOP
cc:
Subject: Changes in Bold

Draft 9/23/98 6:00pm
Jordan Tamagni

PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON
REMARKS FOR CONGRESSIONAL HISPANIC CAUCUS INSTITUTE DINNER
WASHINGTON, DC
September 23, 1998

Acknowledgments: SBA Administrator Alvarez; Sec. Richardson; Sec. Caldera
; Sec. Riley; Sec. Herman; Sec. Cuomo; Sec. Daley; Sec. Shalala; Sec.
Slater; ONDCP Dir. McCaffrey; AG Reno; Members of the Hispanic Caucus;
other Members of Congress.

Before we begin, I want to say a word about Hurricane Georges [zhorzhe].
In Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Haiti, and the Dominican
Republic, businesses and homes have been swept away, and, tragically,
lives have been lost. Tonight, our thoughts and prayers are with the
victims of this terrible storm. FEMA Director James Lee Witt has told me
that we are already assisting in the clean up effort, and helping the
people of Florida to prepare for the hurricane. And will be there every
step of the way to help families and communities to rebuild.

Now, I,d like to pay tribute to the two men we are honoring here
tonight -- Rep. Henry Gonzalez, and Rep. Esteban Torres. With his
stubborn insistence on standing on the House floor and standing up for
principle, &Henry B8 he has been more than a pioneer -- he has been a
conscience for the Congress and the country. Esteban Torres was not

content merely to walk on a trail blazed by leaders like Henry -- he has widened it. From his days as a UAW shop steward to his days as chair of this caucus, he has fought tirelessly to make certain that economic growth benefits all working people, not only of this country but of Mexico as well.

For six years in a row, I have looked forward to coming here -- to join in the energy and the drive and the dedication of the fastest growing community in America. I know that the Vice President was with many of you at the Hispanic Heritage Awards. In so many ways, that rich heritage -- its values of family and faith, community and commitment -- is America's heritage, too. That legacy is at the heart of everything the Hispanic Caucus stands for -- and I have been honored to work alongside you. I'd like to reflect on all we have accomplished together.

Together, we expanded the Earned Income Tax Credit and helped cut taxes for 15 million hard-working families -- including more than 1 million Hispanics. When the Republicans tried to slash it we said no. Together, we increased the minimum wage to give 10 million Americans -- including nearly 2 million Hispanic Americans -- a well-deserved raise. Now, I think it's time to increase the minimum wage again, and I am disappointed that yesterday the Senate voted against doing just that. We value families -- we should raise the value of the minimum wage.

Together we fought for and won the biggest increase in children's health care in more than three decades, to insure up to 5 million uninsured children across this country. We expanded the Head Start program to help our children get off on the right foot. We passed the Family and Medical Leave Act that gave millions of people the chance to take time off from work to care for an ailing parent or a newborn child.

Together, we have opened the doors of higher education with the HOPE Scholarship, with more Pell Grants, with tax credits for all higher education, with deductible student loans. Because of our efforts, everyone who is willing to work hard can go to college.

Together with the Vice President's leadership, we created more than 100 empowerment zones and enterprise communities, established community development banks, doubled small business loans to minorities and tripled them to women. In fact, businesses owned and operated by Hispanic women are the fastest growing category of small business in America today. Together we shaped and passed the historic crime bill that is taking guns off our streets, putting more police on our streets and more prevention to keep our children out of trouble in the first place.

Together, we have built a stronger America: nearly 17 million jobs ... the lowest unemployment rate in 28 years ... the lowest Hispanic unemployment rate in a generation ... the fastest real wage growth in 20 years ... a record number of new small businesses every year ... violent crime down a record six years in a row ... and the lowest crime rate in 25 years. None of this could have happened without the leadership, the friendship, the ideas of the CHC.

I also want to give much-deserved credit to my staff [Maria Echaveste,

Mickey Ibarra, Janet Murguia, Maritza Rivera, Estela Mendoza, to name only a few]. One of my proudest accomplishments has been assembling the most diverse administration in history. We are not successful in spite of our diversity -- we are successful because of it.

Now, we must decide what we should do with this moment of prosperity and progress -- how can we use the resources it is producing and the self-confidence it is generating -- to build a brighter future for all our people?

Some people think that now is the time to kick back and relax. But there is an old Mexican proverb that says: &El que no siembra, no levanta8 [ell kay no see-EM-bra no leh-VAHN-tah] -- &He who doesn,t sow, doesn,t get a crop.8 We must use this time to sow the seeds of the future, and build the America we want for our children. And we cannot afford to rest.

I say we cannot rest until we save Social Security for the 21st Century. In a few days, we will have the first balanced budget and surplus in 29 years. I believe we must not squander one penny of that surplus until we have saved Social Security. Some say we should use the surplus to pay for a tax cut. My balanced budget proves that we can reserve the surplus, save Social Security, and still have targeted tax cuts for education, the environment, school construction, and child care. And every one of those tax cuts is paid for in my balanced budget.

We cannot rest until all children in all communities have a world-class education. My balanced budget will help to hire 100,000 more teachers ... to reduce class size in the early grades to 18 ... to build or modernize 5,000 schools ... to hook up all our classrooms, even in the poorest neighborhoods, to the Internet ... to reward school districts for undertaking the kind of sweeping reforms we,ve seen in cities like Chicago ...to hire 35,000 more teachers to teach in the inner city and other struggling communities.

You and I know that education is the key to opportunity. But you also know that far, far too many Hispanic young people are not getting the education they need to succeed. That is why I established the Presidential Advisory Commission on Educational Excellence for Hispanics. And that is why I have proposed a \$600 million Hispanic Education Action Plan: to transform schools with high dropout rates ...to support Hispanic colleges ... to help adults who want to learn English or go back and get a diploma ... to help all Latinos, young and old, to reach for their dreams.

And you and I know our children must master English. That is why I fought for and won a 35% increase in bilingual education funding in the balanced budget agreement. This will help 1,000 school districts all across America to improve teacher training and add extra classes for students who have not yet mastered English. And I am proposing that we double that investment in teacher training this year, and help communities to train 20,000 teachers to help children with limited English.

Let me be clear: I believe that being able to speak more than one language is a gift -- but unless our children learn English, they will

never reach their full potential. We shouldn't have to fight divisive political battles to do what is right for our children.

I say we cannot rest until we protect our families with a strong, enforceable Patients, Bill of Rights. Managed care can help make health care more affordable for more families. But with 160 million Americans in managed care today, we must say to these plans: Don't turn people away from an emergency room. Don't turn people away from a specialist. Do not let an accountant make decisions only a doctor should make. Traditional care or managed care, every American deserves quality care.

We cannot rest while our communities are segregated by income and by race. The Federal Government should lead the way both in words and in deeds. I have asked Sec. Cuomo to crack down on unfair housing practices by doubling the number of housing discrimination cases. I have also directed Secretary Cuomo to work with you to undertake a major legislative overhaul so our public housing admissions policies help deconcentrate poverty, mix incomes, and thereby mix people of all races and ethnicities. We cannot live together as a nation if we don't live together in our communities. Let's work together on this.

We cannot rest until every community, every neighborhood, every family can reap the benefits of our economic growth. That is why we must fund the empowerment initiatives the Vice President and Secretary Cuomo have worked so hard for, from expanding funding for community development banks and revitalizing urban brownfield areas, to restoring summer jobs for our young people, and providing housing assistance for people moving from welfare to work.

We should all be proud that we have the smallest percentage of our people on welfare in 29 years -- with nearly 4 million fewer people since I signed the welfare reform bill into law. We should all be proud that we made good on our promise to restore some benefits to legal immigrants. But we know that there is much to be done.

The pressures to move from welfare to work are intense, and the transition can be especially difficult for Hispanic women, many of whom lack language as well as job skills. I am committed to working with you to ensure that every individual has the tools to make this transition. That's why I fought for a \$3 billion Welfare to Work fund in the balanced budget, and \$50 million more for Welfare to Work transportation. And that is why I have proposed a \$21 billion child care initiative, to add to the \$4 billion we fought for in the Welfare bill. We can do this -- but we cannot rest.

I say we cannot rest until every American's voice can be heard in the halls of power -- that is one very good reason why we must ensure a fair and accurate Census. Some in Congress would have us ignore the best scientific methods for ensuring the most accurate count. This is unacceptable. In 1990, 5 percent of Hispanics were not counted; nearly 70,000 Hispanic children in Los Angeles County alone were left out. In the year 2000, we can -- and must -- do better. This is a fundamental issue, a crucial civil rights issue. Every American counts. We must count every American.

And while we're at it -- let's give the 4 million people of Puerto Rico the right to choose their own status. In December, they will go to the polls. The Senate Republican leaders say they will consider the results of that referendum. I say we must respect the results of that referendum -- and work to implement the choice the Puerto Rican people make. Puerto Ricans are U.S., and nationhood, statehood, or status quo, the decision must be theirs to make.

We cannot rest until we contain economic turmoil in Russia and Asia and help spur economic growth throughout the world. Growth at home depends upon growth abroad. Many of you came with me when I traveled to Latin America earlier this year, and we saw the spirit of entrepreneurship that is making Latin America one of the world's fastest growing economies. I have urged the major industrial economies to stand ready to use the \$15 billion in emergency IMF funds to help stop the financial contagion from spreading to Latin America and elsewhere. And we must further help the IMF by paying our fair share.

We know that expanding trade is good for our economy, but we must not lose sight of the fact that some communities are not sharing fully in benefits of trade. I have proposed a significant expansion of funds for the development bank that helps these communities. We need to work together to ensure that we get these funds. Trade is good for America -- we need to make sure that it is good for every American.

Finally, we cannot rest until we solve the oldest, most stubborn, most painful challenge of our nation -- the lingering problems and limitless possibilities of our growing diversity. Last week, for the final time, I met with my Advisory Board on Race and received their report. I am proud of their work, the guidance they have given us for policy, for dialogue, for specific practices in every community in this country. But we know we have only just begun a work that will take a lifetime; only just begun to find ways finally to lift the burden of racial and ethnic discrimination, and redeem the full promise of America.

More than any other nation on earth, America has drawn our strength from our diversity, as wave after wave of immigrants have come here in search of a better life. Today, we are the most ethnically and racially diverse democracy in the history of the world. With nearly one million people coming legally to America every year from countries all over the world, we must ask ourselves: will these changes strengthen and unite us, or weaken and divide us?

I believe that immigration is not only good for America -- it is America. It is our history -- it is our heritage -- and it is our hope for the future. As ethnic conflicts tear countries and families apart around the world, we are proving that a diverse people can live together in peace, learning from each other, drawing on each other's strengths, building on one another's accomplishments.

We must welcome new immigrants, and do everything we can to encourage them to learn our language, embrace our way of life, and become full participants in our society by becoming citizens. That is why I have

called on the INS to streamline and improve the naturalization process. My balanced budget would help reduce the backlog of applications and improve customer service. When people take responsibility to become citizens, we should do everything we can to help them -- whether they work in a Fortune 500 company, in a department store, or in the fields. They deserve a chance -- and we must give it to them.

America has always stood proud as a nation dedicated to widening the circle of opportunity, to deepening the meaning of our freedom, and to forming that more perfect union. One of the most passionate advocates for those ideals our country has ever known -- indeed, one of our greatest American heroes -- was Cesar Chavez. Thirty years ago, he met a kindred spirit in Robert Kennedy, who had traveled to California where Chavez lay, fasting in penance for the violence caused by the struggle for farm workers rights. That night, Bobby Kennedy and Cesar Chavez broke bread together in a Thanksgiving Mass. Someone read the words Chavez was too weak to speak -- words I would like to share with you tonight: &Our lives are all that really belong to us, so it is how we use our lives that determines what kind of people we are. 8 That night, Robert Kennedy made up his mind to run for President.

My friends, you and I are bound together by our commitment to use our lives to make this country a better place for all our people, to build a better world for our children. This is not a time to rest. It is time to work. I am honored to share this precious moment in time with all of you, and to work together to build that better world.

Thank you and God bless you all.

ARMS Email SystemRECORD TYPE: PRESIDENTIAL (NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: Robin J. Bachman (CN=Robin J. Bachman/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])

CREATION DATE/TIME:23-SEP-1998 12:02:22.00

SUBJECT: Re: Hispanic Dinner

TO: Jordan Tamagni (CN=Jordan Tamagni/OU=WHO/O=EOP @ EOP [WHO])

READ:UNKNOWN

CC: Karen Tramontano (CN=Karen Tramontano/OU=WHO/O=EOP @ EOP [WHO])

READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

I like it Jordan. [I can never remember the rule for "nearly" and "almost." 66,700 kids can be rounded up to nearly 70K?]

Jordan Tamagni
09/23/98 11:41:33 AM
Record Type: Record

To: Karen Tramontano/WHO/EOP, Robin J. Bachman/WHO/EOP

cc:

Subject: Re: Hispanic Dinner

Yes ma'am. Here it is.

Draft 9/23/98 12:00pm
Jordan Tamagni

PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON
REMARKS FOR CONGRESSIONAL HISPANIC CAUCUS DINNER
WASHINGTON, DC
September 23, 1998

Acknowledgments: TK

Before we begin, I want to say a word about the terrible hurricane that has ripped through the Caribbean. [INSERT TK]

Now, I'd like to pay tribute to the two men we are honoring here tonight -- Representative Henry Gonzalez, and Representative Esteban Torres. &Henry B8 was more than a pioneer -- more than a brilliant prophet on the need to make our economy work for ordinary people. With his stubborn insistence on standing on the House floor and standing up for

principle, he has been a conscience for the Congress and the country. And we are very grateful. Esteban Torres is the best of the newest generation. From his days as a UAW shop steward to his days as chair of this caucus, he has fought for working people of all backgrounds. He has fought to make certain that economic growth benefits the people not only of this country but of Mexico as well.

For the six years in a row, I have looked forward to coming here -- to join in the energy and the commitment and the creativity of the fastest growing community in America. I know that the Vice President spent the evening with many of you last night at the Hispanic Heritage Awards. In so many ways, that rich heritage -- its values of family, faith, and community, of hard work, purpose, and intelligence patriotism -- that is America's heritage, too. That legacy is at the heart of everything the Hispanic Caucus stands for -- and I have been honored to work alongside you for six years now. I'd like to take a moment to think back on all that we have accomplished together.

Together, we expanded the Earned Income Tax Credit and helped cut taxes for 15 million hard-working families -- including more than 1 million Hispanics. When the Republicans tried to slash it we said no. Together, we increased the minimum wage to give 10 million Americans -- including nearly 2 million Hispanic Americans -- a well-deserved raise. Now, I think it's time to increase the minimum wage again, and I am disappointed that yesterday the Senate voted against doing just that. We value families -- we should raise the value of the minimum wage.

Together we fought for and won the biggest increase in children's health care in more than three decades, to insure up to 5 million uninsured children across this country. We expanded the Head Start program to help our children get off on the right foot. We passed the Family and Medical Leave Act that gave millions of people the chance to take time off from work to care for an ailing parent or a newborn child.

Together, we have opened the doors of higher education with the HOPE Scholarship, with more Pell Grants, with tax credits for all higher education, with deductible student loans. Because of our efforts, everyone who is willing to work hard can go to college.

Together with the Vice President's leadership, we created more than 100 empowerment zones and enterprise communities, established community development banks, doubled small business loans to minorities and tripled them to women. In fact, businesses owned and operated by Hispanic women are the fastest growing category of small business in America today.

Together we shaped and passed the historic crime bill that is taking guns off our streets, putting more police on our streets and more prevention to keep our children out of trouble in the first place.

Together, we have built a stronger America: nearly 17 million jobs ... the lowest unemployment rate in 28 years ... the lowest Hispanic unemployment rate in a generation ... the fastest real wage growth in 20 years ... a record number of new small businesses every year ... violent

crime down a record six years in a row ... and the lowest crime rate in 25 years. None of this could have happened without the leadership, the friendship, the ideas of the CHC.

I also want to give much-deserved credit to my staff. One good reason that things are looking so good for so much of America, is because my administration looks so much like America. One of my proudest accomplishments was assembling the most diverse administration in history -- as the Vice President just said, the greatest number of Hispanic American appointments in history. We are not successful in spite of our diversity -- we are successful because of it.

Now, we must decide what we should do with this moment of prosperity and progress -- how can we use the resources it is producing and the self-confidence it is generating -- to build a brighter future for all our people?

Some people think that now is the time to kick back and relax. But there is an old Mexican proverb that says: &El que no siembra, no levanta [ell kay no see-EM-bra no leh-VAHN-tah] -- He who doesn't sow, doesn't get a crop. We must use this time to sow the seeds of the future, and build the America we want for our children. And we cannot afford to rest.

I say we cannot rest until we save Social Security for the 21st Century. In a few days, we'll have the first balanced budget and surplus in 29 years. I believe we must not spend one penny of that surplus until we have saved Social Security. Some say we should use the surplus to pay for a tax cut. My balanced budget proves that we can reserve the surplus and still have targeted tax cuts for education ... to build and repair old schools ... to help families pay for child care ...to help small businesses take out pensions for their employees. And every one of those tax cuts is paid for in my balanced budget.

I say we cannot rest until all children in all communities have a world-class education. My balanced budget will help to hire 100,000 more teachers ... to reduce class size in the early grades to 18 ... to build or modernize 5,000 schools ... to hook up all our classrooms, even in the poorest neighborhoods, to the Internet ... to reward school districts for undertaking the kind of sweeping reforms we've seen in cities like Chicago ...to hire 35,000 more teachers to teach in the inner city and other struggling communities.

You and I know that education is the key to opportunity. But you also know that far, far too many Hispanic young people are not getting the education they need to succeed. That is why I have appointed the first-ever Presidential Advisory Commission on Educational Excellence for Hispanics. And that is why I have proposed the first-ever Hispanic Education Action Plan -- to reach out to Hispanic young people, and encourage them to stay in high school, to go on to college, and to reach for their dreams.

And you and I know that unless they learn English, those young people may never reach their full potential. That is why I fought for and won a 35%

increase in funding for bilingual education in the balanced budget agreement. This will help 1,000 school districts all across America to improve teacher training and add extra classes for students who have not yet mastered English. And I am proposing that we double that investment in teacher training this year. We shouldn't have to fight divisive political battles to do what is right for our children.

I say we cannot rest until we protect our families with a strong, enforceable Patients, Bill of Rights. Managed care can help make health care more affordable for more families. But with 160 million Americans in managed care today, we must say to these plans: Don't turn people away from an emergency room. Don't turn people away from a specialist. Don't let an accountant make decisions only a doctor should make. Traditional care or managed care, every American deserves quality care.

We cannot rest while our communities are so thoroughly segregated by income and by race. The Federal Government should lead the way both in words and in deeds. First, we must put an end to unfair housing practices wherever and whenever they occur. I have asked HUD Secretary Cuomo to double the number of anti-housing discrimination cases. Next, I have directed Secretary Cuomo to work with you to undertake a major legislative overhaul so that our public housing admissions policies help deconcentrate poverty, mix incomes, and thereby mix people of all races and ethnicities. We cannot live together as a nation if we don't live together in our communities.

So let's pledge tonight to join together in the fight for public housing legislation that includes our historic admissions reforms -- reforms that will tear down the walls that divide and integrate public housing for generations to come.

We cannot rest until every community, every neighborhood, every block, every family has the chance to reap the benefits of our economic growth. That is why we must fund the empowerment initiatives the Vice President and Secretary Cuomo have worked so hard for, to expand funding for the community development banks, to step up enforcement of fair housing laws, to revitalize more urban brownfield areas, to restore summer jobs for our young people, and to provide housing assistance for those leaving welfare and entering work.

And we cannot rest until we have done even more to break the cycle of welfare dependency and despair. We should all be proud that we have the smallest percentage of our people on welfare in 29 years -- with nearly 4 million fewer people since I signed the welfare reform bill into law. We should all be proud that we made good on our promise to restore some benefits to legal immigrants. But we know that there is much to be done.

The pressures to move from welfare to work are intense -- and we know the transition can be particularly difficult for Hispanic women, many of whom lack language as well as job skills. I am committed to working with you to ensure that every individual has the tools to make this transition. That's why I fought for a \$3 billion Welfare to Work fund in the balanced budget, and \$50 million more for Welfare to Work transportation. And that is why I have proposed a \$21 billion child care

initiative, to add to the \$4 billion we fought for in the Welfare bill.

I say we cannot rest until every American's voice can be heard in the halls of power -- that is one very good reason why we must ensure a fair and accurate Census. Some in Congress would have us ignore the best scientific methods for ensuring the most accurate count. This is unacceptable. In 1990, 5 percent of Hispanics were not counted; nearly 70,000 Hispanic children in Los Angeles County alone were left out. In the year 2000, we can -- and must -- do better. This is a fundamental issue, a crucial civil rights issue. Every American counts. We must count every American.

And while we're at it -- let's give the 4 million people of Puerto Rico the right to choose their own status. In December, they will go to the polls. The Senate Republican leaders say they will consider the results of that referendum. I say we should be bound by the results of that referendum. Puerto Ricans are American citizens -- let Puerto Rican people decide.

We cannot rest until we contain the economic turmoil in Russia and Asia and help spur robust economic growth throughout the world. Growth at home depends upon growth abroad. Many of you came with me when I traveled to Latin America earlier this year. We saw many things on that trip -- vibrant people, ancient customs, and a spirit of entrepreneurship that is making Latin America one of the world's fastest growing economies. That is why I have urged the major industrial economies to stand ready to use the \$15 billion in emergency IMF funds to help stop the financial contagion from spreading to Latin America and elsewhere. And we must help the IMF put out the world's economic fires by paying our fair share.

We know that expanding trade is good for our economy, but we must not lose sight And to make sure that every American communities can benefit from expanding trade, I proposed \$37 million for the development bank that helps the communities hardest hit by trade.

Finally, we cannot rest until we solve the oldest, most stubborn, most painful challenge of our nation -- the lingering problems and limitless possibilities of our growing diversity. Last week, for the final time, I met with my Advisory Board on Race and received their report. I am proud of their work, the guidance they have given us for policy, for dialogue, for specific practices in every community in this country. But we know we have only just begun a work that will take a lifetime; only just begun to find ways finally to lift the burden of racial and ethnic discrimination, and redeem the full promise of America.

More than any other nation on earth, America has drawn our strength from our diversity, as wave after wave of immigrants have come to our shores in search of a better life for their families. Today, we are the most ethnically and racially diverse democracy in the history of the world. With nearly one million people coming legally to America every year from countries all over the world, we must ask ourselves: will these changes strengthen and unite us, or weaken and divide us?

I believe that immigration is not only good for America -- it is America. It is our history -- it is our heritage -- and it is our hope

for the future. As ethnic conflicts tear countries and families apart around the world, we can prove that a diverse people can live together in peace, learning from each another, drawing on each other's strengths, building on one another's accomplishments.

We must welcome new immigrants, and do everything we can to encourage them to learn our language, embrace our way of life, and become full participants in our society by becoming citizens. That is why I have called on the INS to streamline and improve the naturalization process. My balanced budget would help reduce the backlog of applications and improve customer service. When people take responsibility to become citizens, we should do everything we can to help them -- whether they work in a Fortune 500 company, in a department store, or in the fields, as so many have before them. They deserve a chance -- and we must give it to them.

America has always stood proud as a nation dedicated to widening the circle of opportunity, to deepening the meaning of our freedom, and to forming that more perfect union. One of the most passionate advocates for those ideals our country has ever known -- indeed, one of our greatest American heroes -- was Cesar Chavez. Thirty years ago, he met a kindred spirit in Robert Kennedy, who had traveled to California where Chavez lay, fasting in penance for the violence caused by the struggle for farm workers rights. That night, Bobby Kennedy and Cesar Chavez broke bread together in a Thanksgiving Mass. Someone had to read these words Chavez was too weak to speak, words I would like to share with you tonight. &Our lives are all that really belong to us, so it is how we use our lives that determines what kind of people we are. 8 That night, Robert Kennedy made up his mind to run for President.

My friends, you and I are bound together by our commitment to use our lives to make this country a better place for all our people, to build a better world for our children. This is not a time to rest. It is time to work. I am honored to share this precious moment in time with all of you, and to work together to build that better world.

Thank you and God bless you all.

ARMS Email SystemRECORD TYPE: PRESIDENTIAL (NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: Mickey Ibarra (CN=Mickey Ibarra/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])

CREATION DATE/TIME:23-SEP-1998 18:06:45.00

SUBJECT: Revised Final CHC remarks -- changes in bold

TO: Maria E. Soto (CN=Maria E. Soto/OU=WHO/O=EOP @ EOP [WHO])

READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

Print this for me ASAP.

----- Forwarded by Mickey Ibarra/WHO/EOP on 09/23/98

06:06 PM -----

Jordan Tamagni

09/23/98 05:58:46 PM

Record Type: Record

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

cc:

Subject: Revised Final CHC remarks -- changes in bold

Draft 9/23/98 6:00pm

Jordan Tamagni

PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON

REMARKS FOR CONGRESSIONAL HISPANIC CAUCUS INSTITUTE DINNER

WASHINGTON, DC

September 23, 1998

Acknowledgments: SBA Administrator Alvarez; Sec. Richardson; Sec. Caldera
; Sec. Riley; Sec. Herman; Sec. Cuomo; Sec. Daley; Sec. Shalala; Sec.
Slater; ONDCP Dir. McCaffrey; AG Reno; Members of the Hispanic Caucus;
other Members of Congress.

Before we begin, I want to say a word about Hurricane Georges [zhorzhe].
In Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Haiti, and the Dominican
Republic, businesses and homes have been swept away, and, tragically,
lives have been lost. Tonight, our thoughts and prayers are with the
victims of this terrible storm. FEMA Director James Lee Witt has told me
that we are already assisting in the clean up effort, and helping the
people of Florida to prepare for the hurricane. And will be there every
step of the way to help families and communities to rebuild.

Now, I'd like to pay tribute to the two men we are honoring here
tonight -- Rep. Henry Gonzalez, and Rep. Esteban Torres. With his
stubborn insistence on standing on the House floor and standing up for
principle, & Henry B8 he has been more than a pioneer -- he has been a

conscience for the Congress and the country. Esteban Torres was not content merely to walk on a trail blazed by leaders like Henry -- he has widened it. From his days as a UAW shop steward to his days as chair of this caucus, he has fought tirelessly to make certain that economic growth benefits all working people, not only of this country but of Mexico as well.

For six years in a row, I have looked forward to coming here -- to join in the energy and the drive and the dedication of the fastest growing community in America. I know that the Vice President was with many of you at the Hispanic Heritage Awards. In so many ways, that rich heritage -- its values of family and faith, community and commitment -- is America's heritage, too. That legacy is at the heart of everything the Hispanic Caucus stands for -- and I have been honored to work alongside you. I'd like to reflect on all we have accomplished together.

Together, we expanded the Earned Income Tax Credit and helped cut taxes for 15 million hard-working families -- including more than 1 million Hispanics. When the Republicans tried to slash it we said no. Together, we increased the minimum wage to give 10 million Americans -- including nearly 2 million Hispanic Americans -- a well-deserved raise. Now, I think it's time to increase the minimum wage again, and I am disappointed that yesterday the Senate voted against doing just that. We value families -- we should raise the value of the minimum wage.

Together we fought for and won the biggest increase in children's health care in more than three decades, to insure up to 5 million uninsured children across this country. We expanded the Head Start program to help our children get off on the right foot. We passed the Family and Medical Leave Act that gave millions of people the chance to take time off from work to care for an ailing parent or a newborn child.

Together, we have opened the doors of higher education with the HOPE Scholarship, with more Pell Grants, with tax credits for all higher education, with deductible student loans. Because of our efforts, everyone who is willing to work hard can go to college.

Together with the Vice President's leadership, we created more than 100 empowerment zones and enterprise communities, established community development banks, doubled small business loans to minorities and tripled them to women. In fact, businesses owned and operated by Hispanic women are the fastest growing category of small business in America today. Together we shaped and passed the historic crime bill that is taking guns off our streets, putting more police on our streets and more prevention to keep our children out of trouble in the first place.

Together, we have built a stronger America: nearly 17 million jobs ... the lowest unemployment rate in 28 years ... the lowest Hispanic unemployment rate in a generation ... the fastest real wage growth in 20 years ... a record number of new small businesses every year ... violent crime down a record six years in a row ... and the lowest crime rate in 25 years. None of this could have happened without the leadership, the friendship, the ideas of the CHC.

I also want to give much-deserved credit to my staff [Maria Echaveste, Mickey Ibarra, Janet Murguia, Maritza Rivera, Estela Mendoza, to name only a few]. One of my proudest accomplishments has been assembling the most diverse administration in history. We are not successful in spite of our diversity -- we are successful because of it.

Now, we must decide what we should do with this moment of prosperity and progress -- how can we use the resources it is producing and the self-confidence it is generating -- to build a brighter future for all our people?

Some people think that now is the time to kick back and relax. But there is an old Mexican proverb that says: &El que no siembra, no levanta8 [ell kay no see-EM-bra no leh-VAHN-tah] -- &He who doesn,t sow, doesn,t get a crop.8 We must use this time to sow the seeds of the future, and build the America we want for our children. And we cannot afford to rest.

I say we cannot rest until we save Social Security for the 21st Century. In a few days, we will have the first balanced budget and surplus in 29 years. I believe we must not squander one penny of that surplus until we have saved Social Security. Some say we should use the surplus to pay for a tax cut. My balanced budget proves that we can reserve the surplus, save Social Security, and still have targeted tax cuts for education, the environment, school construction, and child care. And every one of those tax cuts is paid for in my balanced budget.

We cannot rest until all children in all communities have a world-class education. My balanced budget will help to hire 100,000 more teachers ... to reduce class size in the early grades to 18 ... to build or modernize 5,000 schools ... to hook up all our classrooms, even in the poorest neighborhoods, to the Internet ... to reward school districts for undertaking the kind of sweeping reforms we,ve seen in cities like Chicago ...to hire 35,000 more teachers to teach in the inner city and other struggling communities.

You and I know that education is the key to opportunity. But you also know that far, far too many Hispanic young people are not getting the education they need to succeed. That is why I established the Presidential Advisory Commission on Educational Excellence for Hispanics. And that is why I have proposed a \$600 million Hispanic Education Action Plan: to transform schools with high dropout rates ...to support Hispanic colleges ... to help adults who want to learn English or go back and get a diploma ... to help all Latinos, young and old, to reach for their dreams.

And you and I know our children must master English. That is why I fought for and won a 35% increase in bilingual education funding in the balanced budget agreement. This will help 1,000 school districts all across America to improve teacher training and add extra classes for students who have not yet mastered English. And I am proposing that we double that investment in teacher training this year, and help communities to train 20,000 teachers to help children with limited English.

Let me be clear: I believe that being able to speak more than one

language is a gift -- but unless our children learn English, they will never reach their full potential. We shouldn't have to fight divisive political battles to do what is right for our children.

I say we cannot rest until we protect our families with a strong, enforceable Patients, Bill of Rights. Managed care can help make health care more affordable for more families. But with 160 million Americans in managed care today, we must say to these plans: Don't turn people away from an emergency room. Don't turn people away from a specialist. Do n,t let an accountant make decisions only a doctor should make. Traditional care or managed care, every American deserves quality care.

We cannot rest while our communities are segregated by income and by race . The Federal Government should lead the way both in words and in deeds. I have asked Sec. Cuomo to crack down on unfair housing practices by doubling the number of housing discrimination cases. I have also directed Secretary Cuomo to work with you to undertake a major legislative overhaul so our public housing admissions policies help deconcentrate poverty, mix incomes, and thereby mix people of all races and ethnicities. We cannot live together as a nation if we don,t live together in our communities. Let,s work together on this.

We cannot rest until every community, every neighborhood, every family can reap the benefits of our economic growth. That is why we must fund the empowerment initiatives the Vice President and Secretary Cuomo have worked so hard for, from expanding funding for community development banks and revitalizing urban brownfield areas, to restoring summer jobs for our young people, and providing housing assistance for people moving from welfare to work.

We should all be proud that we have the smallest percentage of our people on welfare in 29 years -- with nearly 4 million fewer people since I signed the welfare reform bill into law. We should all be proud that we made good on our promise to restore some benefits to legal immigrants. But we know that there is much to be done.

The pressures to move from welfare to work are intense, and the transition can be especially difficult for Hispanic women, many of whom lack language as well as job skills. I am committed to working with you to ensure that every individual has the tools to make this transition. That's why I fought for a \$3 billion Welfare to Work fund in the balanced budget, and \$50 million more for Welfare to Work transportation. And that is why I have proposed a \$21 billion child care initiative, to add to the \$4 billion we fought for in the Welfare bill. We can do this -- but we cannot rest.

I say we cannot rest until every American,s voice can be heard in the halls of power -- that is one very good reason why we must ensure a fair and accurate Census. Some in Congress would have us ignore the best scientific methods for ensuring the most accurate count. This is unacceptable. In 1990, 5 percent of Hispanics were not counted; nearly 70,000 Hispanic children in Los Angeles County alone were left out. In the year 2000, we can -- and must -- do better. This is a fundamental issue, a crucial civil rights issue. Every American counts. We must

count every American.

And while we're at it -- let's give the 4 million people of Puerto Rico the right to choose their own status. In December, they will go to the polls. The Senate Republican leaders say they will consider the results of that referendum. I say we must respect the results of that referendum -- and work to implement the choice the Puerto Rican people make. Puerto Ricans are U.S., and nationhood, statehood, or status quo, the decision must be theirs to make.

We cannot rest until we contain economic turmoil in Russia and Asia and help spur economic growth throughout the world. Growth at home depends upon growth abroad. Many of you came with me when I traveled to Latin America earlier this year, and we saw the spirit of entrepreneurship that is making Latin America one of the world's fastest growing economies. I have urged the major industrial economies to stand ready to use the \$15 billion in emergency IMF funds to help stop the financial contagion from spreading to Latin America and elsewhere. And we must further help the IMF by paying our fair share.

We know that expanding trade is good for our economy, but we must not lose sight of the fact that some communities are not sharing fully in benefits of trade. I have proposed a significant expansion of funds for the development bank that helps these communities. We need to work together to ensure that we get these funds. Trade is good for America -- we need to make sure that it is good for every American.

Finally, we cannot rest until we solve the oldest, most stubborn, most painful challenge of our nation -- the lingering problems and limitless possibilities of our growing diversity. Last week, for the final time, I met with my Advisory Board on Race and received their report. I am proud of their work, the guidance they have given us for policy, for dialogue, for specific practices in every community in this country. But we know we have only just begun a work that will take a lifetime; only just begun to find ways finally to lift the burden of racial and ethnic discrimination, and redeem the full promise of America.

More than any other nation on earth, America has drawn our strength from our diversity, as wave after wave of immigrants have come here in search of a better life. Today, we are the most ethnically and racially diverse democracy in the history of the world. With nearly one million people coming legally to America every year from countries all over the world, we must ask ourselves: will these changes strengthen and unite us, or weaken and divide us?

I believe that immigration is not only good for America -- it is America. It is our history -- it is our heritage -- and it is our hope for the future. As ethnic conflicts tear countries and families apart around the world, we are proving that a diverse people can live together in peace, learning from each other, drawing on each other's strengths, building on one another's accomplishments.

We must welcome new immigrants, and do everything we can to encourage them to learn our language, embrace our way of life, and become

full participants in our society by becoming citizens. That is why I have called on the INS to streamline and improve the naturalization process. My balanced budget would help reduce the backlog of applications and improve customer service. When people take responsibility to become citizens, we should do everything we can to help them -- whether they work in a Fortune 500 company, in a department store, or in the fields. They deserve a chance -- and we must give it to them.

America has always stood proud as a nation dedicated to widening the circle of opportunity, to deepening the meaning of our freedom, and to forming that more perfect union. One of the most passionate advocates for those ideals our country has ever known -- indeed, one of our greatest American heroes -- was Cesar Chavez. Thirty years ago, he met a kindred spirit in Robert Kennedy, who had traveled to California where Chavez lay, fasting in penance for the violence caused by the struggle for farm workers rights. That night, Bobby Kennedy and Cesar Chavez broke bread together in a Thanksgiving Mass. Someone read the words Chavez was too weak to speak -- words I would like to share with you tonight: &Our lives are all that really belong to us, so it is how we use our lives that determines what kind of people we are. 8 That night, Robert Kennedy made up his mind to run for President.

My friends, you and I are bound together by our commitment to use our lives to make this country a better place for all our people, to build a better world for our children. This is not a time to rest. It is time to work. I am honored to share this precious moment in time with all of you, and to work together to build that better world.

Thank you and God bless you all.

Message Sent

To: _____

Maria Echaveste/WHO/EOP

Mickey Ibarra/WHO/EOP

Janet Murguia/WHO/EOP

Minyon Moore/WHO/EOP

Bruce N. Reed/OPD/EOP

Elena Kagan/OPD/EOP

Melissa G. Green/OPD/EOP

Jonathan Orszag/OPD/EOP

Jake Siewert/OPD/EOP

ARMS Email SystemRECORD TYPE: PRESIDENTIAL (NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: Joseph C. Fanaroff (CN=Joseph C. Fanaroff/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])

CREATION DATE/TIME:24-SEP-1998 13:32:43.00

SUBJECT: 1998-9-24 remarks on poverty and income report

TO: whatsnew (whatsnew @ www0.whitehouse.gov @ inet [UNKNOWN])

READ:UNKNOWN

CC: Chandler G. Spaulding (CN=Chandler G. Spaulding/OU=WHO/O=EOP @ EOP [WHO])

READ:UNKNOWN

CC: Thomas B. Samburg (CN=Thomas B. Samburg/OU=OA/O=EOP @ EOP [OA])

READ:UNKNOWN

CC: Leland L. Scott Jr. (CN=Leland L. Scott Jr./OU=OA/O=EOP @ EOP [OA])

READ:UNKNOWN

CC: Robert E. Whiteman (CN=Robert E. Whiteman/OU=OA/O=EOP @ EOP [OA])

READ:UNKNOWN

CC: William C. Haymes (CN=William C. Haymes/OU=OA/O=EOP @ EOP [OA])

READ:UNKNOWN

CC: Mark H. Bartholomew (CN=Mark H. Bartholomew/OU=OA/O=EOP @ EOP [OA])

READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

Title: President Clinton Announces New Figures Showing Family Incomes Are Up, Poverty Is Down

----- Forwarded by Joseph C. Fanaroff/WHO/EOP on 09/24/98

01:31 PM -----

SUNTUM_M @ A1

09/24/98 01:25:00 PM

Record Type: Record

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

cc:

Subject: 1998-9-24 remarks on poverty and income report

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

September 24, 1998

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
ON INCOME AND POVERTY REPORT

The Rose Garden

12:20 P.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: She was terrific, wasn't she? Let's give her another hand. I thought she was great. (Applause.)

Congressman Cardin, welcome. I know you're proud of your constituent here. Jessica, welcome. We're glad to see you. I think Congressman Blagojevich is here. We welcome him, along with Senator Ephraim Gonzalez, who is the President of National Hispanic Caucus of State Legislators; and Councilman Robert Cantana of Buffalo.

Let me once again thank Monique for her remarkable statement and her even more remarkable life. I'm delighted to be joined here by our economic team -- by Erskine Bowles and Secretary Rubin, Secretary Herman, Gene Sperling, Jack Lew, Janet Yellen, Larry Summers. Their tireless, often literally sleepless work has been very instrumental in sparking and maintaining what soon will be the longest peacetime boom in American history.

Officials of the Census Bureau who are here today, I want to thank all of you. We're going to be talking a little bit about some Census Bureau statistics. Sometimes we take your hard work and statistics for granted. The fact is that you ensure that our democracy is truly representative. And let me say in that connection once again, Congress must not hamstring the Census Bureau's efforts to maintain the most up-to-date, accurate scientific methods to produce the year 2000 census. They deserve the chance to succeed. (Applause.) Monique Miskimon has shown us today once again that every American counts. That means that every American deserves to be counted.

Now, before I get into the details of the very positive economic report, which Monique and her daughter so vividly represent, I think we all want to say just a few words and reflect on the powerful impact of Hurricane Georges. In the Caribbean islands, businesses and homes have been swept away; tragically, many lives have been lost. Meanwhile, the projected track of the storm places the hurricane center over or near the Florida Keys late tonight or early tomorrow morning. As we speak, we're helping the people of Florida prepare for the hurricane. We've already sent assistance to Haiti and the Dominican Republic. Obviously, we're working with the officials in Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

James Lee Witt, the Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, has informed me that FEMA's Region Six Emergency Response Team arrived in Tallahassee, Florida, at 10:00 a.m. this morning. Here in Washington, the FEMA Emergency Support Team is operating at Level One, its highest level, on a 24-hour basis.

Our support teams and our prayers are with those in the Caribbean as they begin to rebuild, and those in the Florida Keys as they brace for the impact of the storm.

Now, as President, from my first day here, I have done my best to fulfill a commitment I made to the American people: first of all, to restore the reality of the American Dream -- of opportunity for all responsible citizens, of a community in which we all count and work together -- and secondly, to reclaim the future for our children, to strengthen our country for the century ahead.

To accomplish that mission, we began first with an economic strategy to shrink the deficit and balance the budget, to invest in the education and skills of our people, and to expand the export of American goods. The census report released this morning represents one more year's worth of compelling evidence that this economic strategy is working, and that there are lots more people out there like Monique Miskimon.

The report shows that last year the income of the typical American household grew at nearly twice the rate of inflation. Since we launched our economic plan in 1993, the typical family's real income has risen by more than \$3,500. That's an extra \$3,500 that hardworking families can put toward their children's education or a down payment on a first home. Income for typical African American and Hispanic families increased by more than \$1,000 last year alone.

This report also shows that our growing economy is giving more and more families a chance to work their way out of poverty. The poverty rate fell to 13.3 percent, and while we still have plenty of room for improvement, the African American poverty rate fell to another record low. Hispanic poverty saw the largest one-year drop in two decades. Child poverty has dropped in the past four years, more than in any four-year period in the last three decades. And the Earned Income Tax Credit, which Monique spoke of a moment ago, has raised more than 4 million people out of poverty in the last year alone.

The report this morning shows that economic growth continues to raise incomes, lift millions out of poverty, and extend opportunity. It also shows that we have more to do. Since 1993, every income group has benefitted from our nation's economic growth and the lowest 20 percent of our people in terms of income have had

the highest percentage increases. That's the good news, after over 20 years of increasing inequality.

But that inequality is still too high, and it simply means there are too many American families out there working hard, doing everything we could possibly ask of them, and still having a hard time getting ahead. We have to use our prosperity and the confidence that it inspires to help our hardest pressed families and our hardest pressed communities to ensure economic growth for all Americans.

The most important thing we have to do, of course, is to maintain the economic strategy that got us here in the first place -- above all, the strict fiscal discipline that has given us low interest rates, low inflation, big investments and more jobs.

Exactly a week from today, we will have the first balanced budget and surplus since Neil Armstrong walked on the moon in 1969. Unfortunately, this week in the House of Representatives, the Republicans are moving forward with a proposal that drains the new surplus to pay for their tax plan. We can cut taxes. Indeed, my balanced budget includes targeted tax cuts for child care, for education, for environmental clean-up. But tax cuts must be paid for in full if we are to expand opportunity in the years to come.

I say again, we have been waiting for 29 years to see the red ink turn to black. We have a huge baby boom challenge coming when all the baby boomers retire. Social Security, as presently constituted, cannot sustain that retirement. We have to reform Social Security if we want to have it for our parents -- that's me, when the baby boomers retire -- without undermining the standard of living of our children and grandchildren.

So I say again, let us not get into this surplus we have worked for 29 years for -- or we've waited for 29 years for and worked for 6 years for. Let's don't get into that and spend it in an election year tax cut until we have saved Social Security for the 21st century, for the sake of our children and our grandchildren. (Applause.)

Second, we have to continue to invest in our people and lift them all up. I was deeply disappointed this week when 95 percent of the Republicans in the Senate voted not to raise the minimum wage. To reject an increase in the minimum wage when there are still so many people working full-time and raising children in poverty, when the unemployment rate and the inflation rate is so low, I believe is a mistake and sends the wrong signal to the American people.

I thank the 95 percent of the Democratic Caucus in the Senate who voted for the increase in the minimum wage. Working Americans deserve it. I'm disappointed, with only a week left in the fiscal year we rejected this, and I haven't quit fighting for it. I think eventually we will get it in the next several months; if we

have to wait until next year, we will get it.

But I'm also disappointed -- as I said, a week from today we end the fiscal year and we start a new one. And there's still been no action in the Congress on our vital education investments. Indeed, what action there has been in the House of Representatives has been negative, has been a setback for education.

Congress should work with us to enact my plan, paid for in the balanced budget, to reduce class size to an average of 18 in the early grades; to hire 100,000 teachers to teach those children in smaller classes; to rebuild or to construct or repair 5,000 schools so our kids will have good, adequate, safe schools to attend; to hook up all of our classrooms -- all of them, even in the poorest neighborhoods -- to the Internet by the year 2000; to improve early literacy by funding the program to send volunteers in to make sure that every eight-year old can read; to lift our children's sights with voluntary national standards and clear means of measuring them.

Now, if we hope to maintain our economic growth well into the next generation, we have to give every American child a world-class elementary and secondary education. So I say again, we've been here for months and months; there's just a week left in the budget year -- let's finally have action to improve our public schools and give all of our kids a world-class education. (Applause.)

The third thing I'd like to say is we have to continue to lead in the global economy if we want the American economy to continue to grow. We're enjoying unsurpassed economic prosperity, but all of you read the papers every day, you see the news at night, you know there are troubles elsewhere in the world. You know our friends in Asia and Russia are facing great turmoil. You know we're trying to keep our big trading partners and friends in Latin America from having the negative effect of that turmoil reach them even though they are pursuing good policies.

That's why it's important for Congress to fund our America's share of the International Monetary Fund, because the International Monetary Fund helps the countries that are helping themselves to return to growth, and serves as an insurance policy against having the financial crisis spread to the countries that are doing the right thing and keeping Americans at work by buying our products.

Again I say, there is no reason not to do this. We've only got a week left in the budget year. We've been talking about it all year long. The problem has only gotten worse. It is time now to say, we're doing this because it's what America owes as the world leader; and more importantly, we're doing it because it is absolutely necessary to keep American economic growth going. (Applause.)

Finally, let me say that with just a week left in this budget year, I'd still like to see the Congress pass a decent

patients' bill of rights, one that covers -- (applause). Our bill would provide protections to all Americans, simple ones. If you get in an accident, you can go to the nearest emergency room, not be hauled to one halfway across town. If your doctor tells you you need to see a specialist, you can see one. If it comes down to a dispute about whether a medical procedure should or should not be applied, the decision should be made by a doctor, not an accountant. Your medical records ought to be protected in privacy. If your employer changes health care providers, it shouldn't affect you if you happen to be in the middle of a pregnancy or a chemotherapy treatment, or some other thing that would be entirely disruptive and dangerous and damaging to your health care if you had to change doctors in the middle of the procedure.

Now, we do that for everyone. The House passed a bill on a partisan vote, completely party-line vote, that doesn't protect 100 million people and doesn't provide any of those protections to the people that are covered. The Senate Majority Leader actually shut down business in the Senate a few days ago to keep them from voting for it, so they wouldn't be recorded -- they wouldn't be recorded as killing the patients' bill of rights -- but they could kill it and still satisfy the insurance companies that are doing their best to do it.

There's still time. We haven't broken for the election yet. We can still do the right thing by the American people. But we have to think about it, we have to focus on it, and we have to put our priorities where they ought to be. I think it's worth fighting for the patients' bill of rights in the closing days of this congressional session. (Applause.)

Again, I want to thank the economic team here and our supporters in the Congress, including those who are here today, for giving more Americans a chance to live the story that Monique has told us about. I want to thank her for coming today and bringing her beautiful daughter. I know we all wish them well.

Our prayers are with the people who are about to be affected and those who have been affected by the hurricane. And I ask that all of us focus on using these last days of this congressional session to think about the American people, to think about our responsibilities, to think about what got us here over the last six years, and instead of departing from it, to bear down and build on it. That is my goal and that's what we ought to do.

Thank you very much. (Applause.)

Q Mr. President, do you see any way out of an impeachment inquiry?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, let me answer you this way: the right thing to do is for us all to focus on what's best for the American people. And the right thing for me to do is what I'm doing. I'm working on leading our country, and I'm working on healing my

family.

And if you look at what we announced today, what does it tell you? It proves, number one, that the course we have followed

has been the right course for America. That's what it proves. After six years, it can't be an accident anymore.

But the second thing it proves is that it is utterly foolish for people to be diverted or distracted from the urgent challenges still before us. I told you that we had a record -- a record low in African American unemployment and poverty; a record low in the poverty rate for children, of African American children. Do you know what that record low is? It's about 39 percent. In other words, it's breathtakingly high. That's just one statistic.

So what does that tell me? It tells me that the right thing to do is, if we all put progress over partisanship, put people over politics, put the American people first -- what would we do? Well, we would keep the budget balanced. We would save Social Security before we squandered the surplus. We would improve our schools. We would clean up our environment. We would pass the patients' bill of rights. And we would keep the economy going. That's what we would be focused on. That's what I am focused on. That's the way out.

The way out here -- and the only way out is for people in Washington to do what the folks in America want them to do, which is to take care of their concerns, their children, and their future. That's what I mean to do, and I'm going to do my best. (Applause.)

END

12:38 P.M. EDT

Message Sent

To: _____

Lori E. Abrams
Jeannetta P. Allen
Lori L. Anderson
Brenda M. Anders
Eli G. Attie @ OVP@EOP
Patrick Aylward
Robin J. Bachman
Kyle M. Baker
Karen L. Barbuschak
Beverly J. Barnes
Brian A. Barreto
Mark H. Bartholomew
David S. Beaubaire

Paul E. Begala
Mark J. Bernstein
Marsha E. Berry
antony j. blinken
Alexander L. Boyle
Lanny A. Breuer
Patrick E. Briggs
Erin L. Brinkman
Katharine Button
Robin J. Bachman
Barbara D. Woolley
Bradley M. Campbell
Alejandro G. Cabrera @ ovp@eop
Dominique L. Cano
Laura Capps
Joseph W. Cerrell @ OVP@EOP
David K. Chai
Andrei H. Cherny @ ovp@eop
Nanda Chitre
Delia A. Cohen
Julianne B. Corbett
Gregory B. Craig
Michelle Crisci
Lisa R. Dass
Elliot J. Diringer
Jackson T. Dunn
Daniel W. Burkhardt
Debra D. Bird
Diane Ikemiyashiro
Dorian V. Weaver
Dorinda A. Salcido
Douglas Matties
Anne M. Edwards
Rahm Emanuel
Patricia M. Ewing @ OVP@EOP
Joseph C. Fanaroff
Jennifer Ferguson
Julie A. Fernandes
Martha Foley
Carmen B. Fowler
Grace A. Garcia
KARA GERHARDT
Jessica L. Gibson
Adam W. Goldberg
Julie B. Goldberg
Dario J. Gomez
David R. Goodfriend
John A. Gribben
Donald Goldberg
Lawrence J. Haas @ OVP@EOP
William C. Haymes
Maureen A. Hudson
Sheyda Jahanbani
Sheyda Jahanbani

Thomas D. Janenda
david t. johnson
Wayne C. Johnson
Michele Jolin
James M. Teague
Jon P. Jennings
Julie E. Mason
David E. Kalbaugh
Jonathan A. Kaplan
Mark A. Kitchens
Catherine T. Kitchen
Sarah S. Freeman
Jim Kohlenberger @ OVP@EOP
Kris M Balderston
Sara M. Latham
Christopher J. Lavery
Christopher S. Lehane @ OVP@EOP
Joseph P. Lockhart
Laura D. Schwartz
Laura K. Capps
Lisa J. Levin
Christine N. Macy
michael d. malone
Laura S. Marcus
Tanya E. Martin
Doris O. Matsui
Douglas R. Matties
Emory L. Mayfield
Andrew J. Mayock
Anne E. McGuire
Susanna B. McGuire
Estela Mendoza
Noa A. Meyer
R. Scott Michaud
Elisa Millsap
Cheryl D. Mills
Rajiv Y. Mody
megan moloney
Kevin Moran
Melissa M. Murray
Reuben L. Musgrave Jr.
Mindy E. Myers
Sean P. Maloney
Michael V. Terrell
Steven J. Naplan
Mark D. Neschis
Elizabeth R. Newman
Nathan B. Naylor @ ovp@eop
Neera Tanden
Jonathan Orszag
Eleanor S. Parker
Carole A. Parmelee
Sally P. Paxton
Julia M. Payne

Misty L. Phillips
Matthew W. Pitcher
Phillip Caplan
Nicole R. Rabner
Brian A. Reich @ OVP@EOP
Linda Ricci
Renee C. Riley
Robin M. Roland
Cecilia E. Rouse
Charles F. Ruff
Peter Rundlet
Virginia N. Rustique
Evan Ryan
Jodi R. Sakol @ OVP@EOP
Roger V. Salazar
G. Timothy Saunders
Jason H. Schechter
Judithanne V. Scourfield
BROOKS SCOVILLE
Maya Seiden
Barbara Semedo
Ruby Shamir
Jeffrey A. Shesol
June Shih
Robert M. Shireman
Jake Siewert
Dawn L. Smalls
Brian D. Smith
Craig T. Smith
jonathan e. smith
Mary L. Smith
Richard Socarides
Douglas B. Sosnik
Maria E. Soto
Chandler G. Spaulding
Elisabeth Steele
Aviva Steinberg
Todd Stern
Dana C. Strand
Diane A. Stumpf
Michael J. Sullivan
Jonathan H. Schnur
Tracy F. Sisser
Sylvia M. Mathews
Jordan Tamagni
Sandra L. Tijerina
Amy W. Tobe
Barry J. Toiv
Serena C. Torrey
Karen Tramontano
June G. Turner
Thomas M. Rosshirt @ ovp@eop
Thurgood Marshall Jr
Dag Vega

Virginia Apuzzo
Michael Waldman
Angelina Walker @ ovp@eop
Essence P. Washington
Glen M. Weiner
Robert S. Weiner
Peter A. Weissman
Lowell A. Weiss
Woyneab M. Wondwossen
Debra S. Wood
William H. White Jr.
SUNTUM_M @ A1@CD@LNGTWY
meglynn @ usia.gov@INET@LNGTWY
backup @ wilson.ai.mit.edu@INET@LNGTWY
wh-outbox-distr @ pub.pub.whitehouse.gov@INET@LNGTWY
BARTHOLOW_T @ A1@CD@LNGTWY
BROPHY_S @ A1@CD@LNGTWY
BUDIG_N @ A1@CD@LNGTWY
CROWLEY_P @ A1@CD@LNGTWY
CUTLER_L @ A1@CD@LNGTWY
DICKY_L @ A1@CD@LNGTWY
FORDE_R @ A1@CD@LNGTWY
GRAY_W @ A1@CD@LNGTWY
KTORPEY @ AOL.COM@INET@LNGTWY
MOFFETT_J @ A1@CD@LNGTWY
OLCOTT_E @ A1@CD@LNGTWY
PR_U=TDIXON@PR_L=AVUOEOb@MRP@LNGTWY
RICHETTI_S @ A1@CD@LNGTWY
RUBIN_E @ A1@CD@LNGTWY
NAPLAN_S @ A1@CD@LNGTWY
SMITH_BD @ A1@CD@LNGTWY
TCSmith @ dol.gov@INET@LNGTWY
WOZNIAK_N @ A1@CD@LNGTWY
cmbeach @ msn.com@INET@LNGTWY
dmilbank @ tnr.com@INET@LNGTWY
julie_green @ ed.gov@INET@LNGTWY
klasky_helaine @ ustr.gov@INET@LNGTWY
skgmd @ umich.edu@INET@LNGTWY
tingen-terri @ dol.gov@INET@LNGTWY
usia01 @ access.digex.com@INET@LNGTWY
1=US@2=WESTERN UNION@3=@5=ATT.COM@*ELN\62955104@MRX@LNGTWY
62955104 @ eln.attmail.com@INET@LNGTWY
INFOMGT @ A1@CD@LNGTWY
newsdesk @ usnewswire.com@INET@LNGTWY
usnwire @ access.digex.com@INET@LNGTWY
Pub_Arch @ oa.eop.gov@INET@LNGTWY
Releases @ pub.pub.whitehouse.gov@INET@LNGTWY
Releases @ www3.whitehouse.gov@INET@LNGTWY

ARMS Email SystemRECORD TYPE: PRESIDENTIAL (NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: Judithanne V. Scourfield (CN=Judithanne V. Scourfield/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])

CREATION DATE/TIME:24-SEP-1998 11:16:43.00

SUBJECT: 1998-09/23 POTUS remarks to Hispanic Caucus

TO: Carrie A. Street (CN=Carrie A. Street/OU=WHO/O=EOP @ EOP [WHO])

READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

----- Forwarded by Judithanne V. Scourfield/WHO/EOP on
09/24/98 11:15 AM -----

OLCOTT_E @ A1

09/23/98 09:03:00 PM

Record Type: Record

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

cc:

Subject: 1998-09/23 POTUS remarks to Hispanic Caucus

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

September 23, 1998

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
TO THE CONGRESSIONAL HISPANIC CAUCUS DINNER

Washington Hilton
Washington, D.C.

7:59 P.M. EDT

AUDIENCE: Viva Clinton!

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you.

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Twelve more years! (Laughter.)

THE PRESIDENT: That's for the guy that just left. (Laughter and
applause.) Thank you.

Congressman Becerra, thank you so much for your remarks and for your truly outstanding leadership of the Hispanic Caucus. Thank you, Carmen Delgado-Votaw, for your welcome. I thank all the members of Congress and our administration and staff who are here for their service to our country. I thank you for that warm welcome, for being my friends, for standing with me on sunny days and in strong winds. (Applause.) But most of all I thank you for being willing to fight for the America we want for our children in a new century.

Before we begin, as the Vice President indicated, I would like to say just a word about Hurricane Georges. In Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, in Haiti, in the Dominican Republic, businesses and homes have been swept away and lives have been lost. Tonight our thoughts and prayers are with the victims of this terrible storm. Our FEMA Director, James Lee Witt, has told me that we are already assisting in the cleanup effort and we are providing humanitarian aid in Haiti and the Dominican Republic. (Applause.) We are also helping the people of Florida to prepare for the hurricane, and Secretary Cuomo is leading a delegation to Puerto Rico. I thank him for that. (Applause.) We will be there every step of the way to help these communities and these people to rebuild.

I also want to join the Vice President in paying tribute to Henry B. Gonzalez and Esteban Torres. (Applause.) They are both friends of mine. I first met Henry Gonzalez in 1972. I never will forget an evening I spent with him in the Minger (phonetic) Hotel in San Antonio, Texas, the weekend before the presidential election. And about the only thing we had to enjoy was the mango ice cream they had served there for over 100 years. (Laughter.)

On the night before my election as President in 1992, we had a late-night rally in San Antonio; and thinking of that night so long ago -- 20 years ago then -- I got \$400 worth of mango ice cream for our campaign plane so that we could eat it with two reasons to be happy. And let me say that Henry B.

Gonzalez has been a pioneer and a conscience for the Congress and the country.

He has the heart of a lion and we'll always be grateful to him. (Applause.)

From his days as a UAW shop steward to his days as chair of this caucus, Esteban Torres has fought tirelessly to make certain that economic growth benefits all working people, and not only the people of this country, but of Mexico as well. He has been a lion in the fight for a decent and better America. I will miss him very, very much. And I thank you, sir, for your service. (Applause.)

If I could just continue the appreciation for a minute, I want to thank the members of this caucus and their supporters for what has been done for America and what we have done together. Together we expanded the Earned Income Tax Credit and cut taxes for 15 million hard-working families, including more than 1 million Hispanic families. And when the majority in Congress tried to slash it, together we said no.

Together we increased the minimum wage for 10 million Americans, including nearly 2 million Hispanics. And we are trying to increase it again for 12 million Americans. I'm very disappointed that yesterday over 95 percent of the Senate Republicans voted against it, but I haven't stopped fighting, and I don't think you have either. It is time to raise the minimum wage for people who need and deserve it. (Applause.)

Together we fought for and won the biggest increase in children's health care in more than three decades to insure up to 5 million uninsured children, almost all of them in low-income working families in America. We expanded the Head Start program and passed the Family and Medical Leave law, to give millions of people a chance to take time off from work when a baby is born or a parent is sick. Together we have opened the doors of higher education with the Hope Scholarship, more Pell Grants, tax credits for all higher education, deductible student loans. Because of your efforts, everyone who is willing to work hard can now go to college without being afraid of being crushed by the burden of debt, and I thank you for that. (Applause.)

Together, under the leadership of the Vice President we created more than 100 empowerment zones and enterprise communities, community development banks; we doubled small business loans to minorities, tripled them to women. Administrator Aida Alvarez is here and she would want me to say that businesses owned and operated by Hispanic women are the fastest growing category of small business in America today. (Applause.)

Together we shaped and passed an historic crime bill to take guns off our streets, put police back on our streets, and provide more prevention to keep our children out of trouble in the first place. Together we have built an America that has the lowest

unemployment rate in 28 years, the lowest Hispanic unemployment rate in a generation, the fastest real wage growth in 20 years, a record number of new small businesses every year, the lowest crime rate in 25 years, the highest home ownership in the history of our country -- and you did it. None of this could have been done without the Congressional Hispanic Caucus. (Applause.)

I thank the Vice President for mentioning those who serve and who have served in the Cabinet, in high administration positions, and in the White House. I thank you for all you have done as well.

Now, having said that, the real question before us this evening is what shall we do with this moment of prosperity? What shall we do with this moment of opportunity? You know, a lot of people, when times get really good, tend to do one of two things -- and I would argue both of them are wrong. One, just say, well, I've worked really hard, times have been tough, I think I'll just relax for a few years. Or two is to say, well, things are so good, nobody can mess it up, so I think I will just indulge myself in some diversion. As a country we cannot do that.

I tell you tonight, my friends, that the challenge before us is what do we do with this prosperity, what do we do with this confidence, what do we do with these good times? I feel very strongly that we need to say loud and clear that we believe that the time has come to thank God for our blessings and then to say we intend to use these blessings to meet the big challenges facing America that will shape the future of our children, and to go back and pick up those folks who have not participated in the benefits of the last six years and give them a chance to do it as well. (Applause.)

There was an old Mexican proverb that says, "El que no siembra, no levanta" -- he who does not sow, doesn't get a crop. It is time to sow the seeds of the future, to build the America we want for our children. We cannot afford to rest; we have work to do.

And what is that work? First, we cannot rest until we save Social Security for the 21st century. (Applause.) Now, what do I mean by that? Every person in this audience thrills when ever anyone refers to mi familia. Our family, our national family is getting older -- I ought to know, I am. I'm the oldest 52-year-old man in America. (Laughter.) I am the oldest of the baby boomers, all of you who are my age.

When all of us are retired, there will only be about two people working in America for every one person drawing Social Security. Now, we have three choices. We can do something now -- modest, but disciplined -- to preserve this system into the future, with all of its benefits. Or we can do nothing until the crisis occurs and we'll have two choices. Those of us who are older can expect our children to hike their taxes a lot and lower the standard of living of their children. Or we can just do without a lot of the

benefits that have lifted half the seniors in America out of poverty today. I don't think either one of those is a very good choice.

In just a few days we will have the first balanced budget and surplus in 29 years. (Applause.) Now, I believe if we really care about our national family, we ought to stand up and say, look, we know it's just a few weeks before the election. We know there are those on the other side who say that we ought to have a tax cut right now based on projected surpluses into the future. And we know that's wildly popular at election time.

But we didn't get the lowest unemployment rate in 28 years and the first balanced budget and surplus in 29 years by doing what was popular today. We did it by doing what was right for the long run, and we'd like to at least see the ink turn from red to black, then dry a little bit and save Social Security before we squander this surplus. That is what I believe we should do. (Applause.) Thank you.

Second, we can't rest until all our kids in all our communities have a world-class education. (Applause.) Our budget -- our balanced budget provides for hiring 100,000 more teachers to lower average class size to 18 in the early grades. All the research shows that does more to help children learn and have permanent learning gains than anything else we can do. (Applause.)

It provides funds to build or repair 5,000 schools with kids the largest they've ever been in our classroom -- the largest number of students. It provides funds to hook up all of our classrooms to the Internet, not just those of the wealthiest school districts.

It provides funds to reward school districts who undertake sweeping reforms like Chicago has. In Chicago today the summer school -- the summer school -- is the sixth biggest school district in America. Over 40,000 children every day during the school year get three square meals at school. Yes, have high standards; yes, end social promotion; but for goodness sakes, do something for those kids that deserve a better shot and need more help to succeed in life. (Applause.)

,

And our budget provides funds to hire 35,000 teachers to go into troubled inner-city and other isolated neighborhoods by saying to the brightest young people, we'll pay your way to college if you'll teach off the cost by going into those tough neighborhoods and giving those kids a world-class education. (Applause.)

No community in America has a bigger stake in this than the Hispanic community. That's why I established an advisory commission on educational excellence for Hispanics, and why I have proposed a special \$600 million Hispanic education action plan to transform schools with high drop-out rates, to support Hispanic

colleges, to help adults who want to learn English or get a high school diploma, to help all Latinos, young and old, to reach their dream. (Applause.)

And you and I know, yes, our children must master English. That's why I fought for a 35 percent increase in bilingual education -- (applause) -- to help 1,000 school districts improve teacher training and add extra classes for students who haven't yet mastered English. You know, when people go around and tell me all about the failures of bilingual education, I say, well, look at the number of school districts who have so many more children whose first language is not English that don't have any teachers who have been certified to teach them English. Let's solve the problem instead of making it a political issue. (Applause.)

The Hispanic Action Education plan would help to train 20,000 teachers to help children with limited English. This is not just a Hispanic problem anymore. Just across the river here in Fairfax County, there are children from 150 different national and ethnic groups. Being able to speak more than one language is a gift that more of us need. (Applause.) But in America, unless one of those languages is English, our children can never reach their full potential. This is not the subject of a divisive political battle. Let's look at the facts, put our children before our politics, and do what's right for the country, and actually give people the chance to speak this language. (Applause.)

Let me also say we can't rest, with 160 million Americans in managed care plans, until we pass a strong, enforceable patients' bill of rights that says doctors ought to make medical decisions, not accountants. (Applause.)

Think of this. Don't you believe whatever your health plan is that you ought to have the right to see a specialist if you need it. If you walk out of this banquet tonight and, God forbid, you get hit by a car, don't you think they ought to take you the closest emergency room, not one halfway across town that happens to be covered by your plan? (Applause.)

Those of you who are older, remember what it was like when a child was first born into your family. How would you feel if, because the mother or the father is in a plan covered by a small business, if the small business changes health plans and you're six months pregnant, or your wife is six months pregnant -- I think you ought to be able to keep the same doctor until the baby is born. But that's not what plans provide today. I think that ought to be a right.

If you've ever had anybody in your family in chemotherapy treatment, it's pretty tough. I've been there; a lot of you have. You try to make jokes about whether your hair is going to fall out. You try to deal with people when they get sick to their stomach and they can't eat. Nobody ought to have to worry, in addition to that, about whether in the middle of the chemotherapy

treatment somebody is going to send you a letter in the mail and say, I'm sorry, you've got to change doctors, you've got to do it all over again, you've got to start all over again. That is wrong. That is wrong, and we ought to stop it. (Applause.)

That's what we ought not to rest until we do. We ought not to rest while any of our communities are still segregated by income or race. The government should lead the way in word and deed. I've asked Secretary Cuomo to crack down on unfair housing practices, to double the number of housing discrimination cases, to work with you to undertake a major legislative overhaul so public housing will help to deconcentrate poverty, mix incomes, and thereby mix people of all races and ethnicities. We can't live together as one nation unless we're able to live together in our own communities. And I ask you to help me work together on this.

We can't rest until every neighborhood can reap the benefits of our economic growth. That's why we should fund the empowerment initiatives the Vice President and Secretary Cuomo have worked so hard for -- to get more investment, more jobs, and more opportunity into the neighborhoods which still have unemployment rates that are too high and incomes that are too low. We can do it now. If we can't do it now, with unemployment rates so low, when we will ever be able to do it? We should not walk away from this session of Congress without that empowerment agenda. (Applause.)

We should be proud that we have the lowest welfare rolls in 29 years, that we made good on our promise to restore some benefits to legal immigrants. (Applause.)

But there is much more to be done. The pressures to move from welfare to work are intense, and the transition can be especially difficult for Hispanic women who lack language or job skills. I want to make sure every individual has the tools to succeed in this transition. That's why we fought for a welfare-to-work fund in the balanced budget, to help people make it; for \$50 million more for transportation, for people who don't have cars. And that's why I have proposed in my balanced budget a \$21 billion child care initiative to add to what we fought for in the welfare bill. Nobody should have to give up being a good parent to succeed in the work place. (Applause.)

And we cannot rest until we do have an accurate census count. I just want to make sure everybody in this room understands the importance of that. Some in Congress would have us ignore the best scientific methods for ensuring the most accurate count. That is, methods that Republican, as well as Democratic, experts say is the best way to make sure everybody gets counted. I don't know why some people are afraid of having all Americans counted -- counted in the drawing of congressional districts, counted in the delivery of federal aid funds. In 1990, 5 percent of our Hispanic citizens were not counted. Nearly 70 -- listen to this -- nearly 70,000 Hispanic children in Los Angeles County alone were left out.

Now, we can do better than that. This is a fundamental issue. This is a civil rights issue. If you believe every American counts, don't you also believe we have to count every American? (Applause.)

And while we're at it, once again I call upon the Congress to give the 4 million people of Puerto Rico the right to choose their own status. It is important. (Applause.) Now, in December the Puerto Rican people go to the polls. The Republican leaders of the Senate say, they will "consider" the results of the referendum. I say I will respect the results of the referendum. (Applause.)

Now, we cannot rest until we keep economic growth going throughout the world, until we contain all this trouble our friends in Russia and Asia are experiencing, until we do everything we can to keep it from spreading to Latin America, which has been threatened by global financial events that they had nothing to do with creating. This is in our interests. The Latin markets are our fastest growing ones. They are the people that are doing more every year to buy American products as we build closer ties.

I have spent a lot of time on Latin America. Hillary has gone to Latin America several times and is about to go again. We always believed that in the future of America, not only would Hispanic Americans become our largest minority, but Latin America would become our closest partners for democracy as well as for prosperity. (Applause.)

Now, when you see all this debate in the paper about the IMF, that's really what that's about. The International Monetary Fund is the way that we work with other people to help countries that are doing the right thing get back on their feet and to try to stem and limit this economic turmoil. I ask your help in that. We need to do it for the benefit of our own people, as well as for our obligation.

Finally, let me say we cannot rest until we continue to work to bring America together across racial and ethnic lines. Last week, for the final time, I met with my Advisory Board on Race and received their report. Again, I say to you this is not a black/white issue, this is not even a black/white/brown issue. America is becoming ever more diverse. And it is our great, great asset as we move toward a new century in what is not only a global economy but, increasingly, a global society, where we face the same opportunities and the same dangers. We have got to learn to stop using our racial and ethnic differences as wedge issues in political campaigns and start lifting them up as money in the bank for 21st century America. (Applause.)

I see General McCaffrey out there, our drug czar. You know, we had a meeting the other day with the new Colombian President, a man who has actually had his own life imperiled for standing up against narco-trafficking. No children anywhere have an

interest in anything other than doing everything we can to keep them away from the dangers of drugs. No children, without regard to race or income, have an interest in anything other than an America which educates all our children. No people anywhere in this country have an interest in anything other than an America which guarantees quality health care to all of our kids and gives every working family the dignity of knowing that if they work hard and obey the law, at least they should not live in poverty. That is the kind of America we have to build.

And let me say that immigration has been and will be an important part of that process. It is not only good for America, it is America. (Applause.) And I say to you, we must continue to welcome new immigrants, to encourage them to become a full part of American society and to help them become citizens and voting citizens, not stand in their way when they seek to do it. (Applause.)

So I say to you, you have been very kind to me tonight. You were enthusiastic. You cheered. You were happy. I had a temptation to throw this speech away and give you an old whoop-de-do -- (laughter) -- even though I'm not running anymore for anything. But I decided it was the wrong thing to do because you need to know what is really at stake, what is really going on, what really should bring you here.

In a few weeks all of you and all our fellow citizens will be given a chance to go to the polls in November and choose what to do with this moment. Will it be partisanship or progress? Will it be about people or politics? Will we squander the moment or seize

it? That is the decision before us. And as happy as I am and grateful for the reception you gave me, that's not what this is about. It's about you and your children and all the people out there all over this country. That's what this is about.

Thirty years ago, Robert Kennedy traveled to California to see a prostrate Cesar Chavez, who was fasting in penance, bed-ridden, for the violence caused by the struggle for farm workers' rights. That night they broke bread together at a Thanksgiving mass, and someone read the words Chavez was too weak to speak, words I would like to share with you tonight as I leave. Here is what he said: "Our lives are all that really belong to us, so it is how we use our lives that determines what kind of people we are." He said later that that night was the night Robert Kennedy made up his mind to run for President and, ultimately, to give his life for many of the causes for which we struggle today.

My friends, you and I are bound by a commitment to fulfill the legacy of this country's history, to deepen the meaning of our freedom, to widen the circle of opportunity, to strengthen the bonds of our community, and to stand against all those and all the

forces that would divide us, demean us, or hold us back. Most everybody here has a magnificent American story. Most everybody here can look back on parents and grandparents and great-grandparents of whom you are immensely proud but who overcame unimaginable odds and braved great sacrifices so that one day their children or their children's children could put on the clothes we wear tonight and come to a banquet like this tonight and be grateful to them for what they did for us.

Once in a generation a country is in the position we find ourselves in tonight. With this kind of success, this kind of prosperity, this kind of confidence, this kind of opportunity to lead in the world, we cannot rest, we cannot indulge ourselves. We have work to do. We have work to do so that when our children and our children's children reach their maturity, they will know that we did what was right in this time, and we listened to the words of Cesar Chavez.

God bless you, and thank you so much. (Applause.)

END

8:30 P.M. EDT

Message Sent

To:

Lori E. Abrams
Jeannetta P. Allen
Lori L. Anderson
Brenda M. Anders
Eli G. Attie @ OVP@EOP
Patrick Aylward
Robin J. Bachman
Kyle M. Baker
Karen L. Barbuschak
Beverly J. Barnes
Brian A. Barreto
Mark H. Bartholomew
David S. Beaubaire
Paul E. Begala
Mark J. Bernstein
Marsha E. Berry
antony j. blinken
Alexander L. Boyle
Lanny A. Breuer
Patrick E. Briggs
Erin L. Brinkman
Katharine Button
Robin J. Bachman
Barbara D. Woolley
Bradley M. Campbell
Alejandro G. Cabrera @ ovp@eop
Dominique L. Cano

Laura Capps
Joseph W. Cerrell @ OVP@EOP
David K. Chai
Andrei H. Cherny @ ovp@eop
Nanda Chitre
Delia A. Cohen
Julianne B. Corbett
Gregory B. Craig
Michelle Crisci
Lisa R. Dass
Elliot J. Diringer
Jackson T. Dunn
Daniel W. Burkhardt
Diane Ikemiyashiro
Dorian V. Weaver
Dorinda A. Salcido
Douglas Matties
Anne M. Edwards
Rahm Emanuel
Patricia M. Ewing @ OVP@EOP
Joseph C. Fanaroff
Jennifer Ferguson
Julie A. Fernandes
Martha Foley
Carmen B. Fowler
Grace A. Garcia
KARA GERHARDT
Jessica L. Gibson
Adam W. Goldberg
Julie B. Goldberg
Dario J. Gomez
David R. Goodfriend
John A. Gribben
Donald Goldberg
Lawrence J. Haas @ OVP@EOP
William C. Haymes
Maureen A. Hudson
Sheyda Jahanbani
Sheyda Jahanbani
Thomas D. Janenda
david t. johnson
Wayne C. Johnson
Michele Jolin
James M. Teague
Jon P. Jennings
Julie E. Mason
David E. Kalbaugh
Jonathan A. Kaplan
Mark A. Kitchens
Catherine T. Kitchen
Sarah S. Freeman
Jim Kohlenberger @ OVP@EOP
Kris M Balderston
Sara M. Latham

Christopher J. Lavery
Christopher S. Lehane @ OVP@EOP
Joseph P. Lockhart
Laura D. Schwartz
Laura K. Capps
Lisa J. Levin
Christine N. Macy
michael d. malone
Laura S. Marcus
Tanya E. Martin
Doris O. Matsui
Douglas R. Matties
Emory L. Mayfield
Andrew J. Mayock
Anne E. McGuire
Susanna B. McGuire
Estela Mendoza
Noa A. Meyer
R. Scott Michaud
Elisa Millsap
Cheryl D. Mills
Rajiv Y. Mody
megan moloney
Kevin Moran
Melissa M. Murray
Reuben L. Musgrave Jr.
Mindy E. Myers
Sean P. Maloney
Mark J. BERNSTEIN
Michael V. Terrell
Steven J. Naplan
Mark D. Neschis
Elizabeth R. Newman
Nathan B. Naylor @ ovp@eop
Neera Tanden
Jonathan Orszag
Eleanor S. Parker
Carole A. Parmelee
Sally P. Paxton
Julia M. Payne
Misty L. Phillips
Matthew W. Pitcher
Phillip Caplan
Nicole R. Rabner
Brian A. Reich @ OVP@EOP
Linda Ricci
Renee C. Riley
Robin M. Roland
Cecilia E. Rouse
Charles F. Ruff
Peter Rundlet
Virginia N. Rustique
Evan Ryan
Jodi R. Sakol @ OVP@EOP

Roger V. Salazar
G. Timothy Saunders
Jason H. Schechter
Judithanne V. Scourfield
BROOKS SCOVILLE
Maya Seiden
Barbara Semedo
Ruby Shamir
Jeffrey A. Shesol
June Shih
Robert M. Shireman
Jake Siewert
Dawn L. Smalls
Brian D. Smith
Craig T. Smith
jonathan e. smith
Mary L. Smith
Richard Socarides
Douglas B. Sosnik
Maria E. Soto
Chandler G. Spaulding
Elisabeth Steele
Aviva Steinberg
Todd Stern
Dana C. Strand
Diane A. Stumpf
Michael J. Sullivan
Jonathan H. Schnur
Tracy F. Sisser
Sylvia M. Mathews
Jordan Tamagni
Sandra L. Tijerina
Amy W. Tobe
Barry J. Toiv
Serena C. Torrey
Karen Tramontano
June G. Turner
Thomas M. Rosshirt @ ovp@eop
Thurgood Marshall Jr
Dag Vega
Virginia Apuzzo
Michael Waldman
Angelina Walker @ ovp@eop
Essence P. Washington
Glen M. Weiner
Robert S. Weiner
Peter A. Weissman
Lowell A. Weiss
Woyneab M. Wondwossen
Debra S. Wood
William H. White Jr.
1=US@2=WESTERN UNION@3=@5=ATT.COM@*ELN\62955104@MRX@LNGTWY
62955104 @ eln.attmail.com@INET@LNGTWY
BARTHOLOW_T @ A1@CD@LNGTWY

BROPHY_S @ A1@CD@LNGTWY
BUDIG_N @ A1@CD@LNGTWY
CROWLEY_P @ A1@CD@LNGTWY
CUTLER_L @ A1@CD@LNGTWY
DICKEY_L @ A1@CD@LNGTWY
FORDE_R @ A1@CD@LNGTWY
GRAY_W @ A1@CD@LNGTWY
INFOMGT @ A1@CD@LNGTWY
KTORPEY @ AOL.COM@INET@LNGTWY
MOFFETT_J @ A1@CD@LNGTWY
PR_U=TDIXON@PR_L=AVUOEOB@MRP@LNGTWY
Pub_Arch @ oa.eop.gov@INET@LNGTWY
RICHETTI_S @ A1@CD@LNGTWY
RUBIN_E @ A1@CD@LNGTWY
Releases @ pub.pub.whitehouse.gov@INET@LNGTWY
Releases @ www3.whitehouse.gov@INET@LNGTWY
NAPLAN_S @ A1@CD@LNGTWY
SMITH_BD @ A1@CD@LNGTWY
SUNTUM_M @ A1@CD@LNGTWY
SUNTUM_M @ A1@CD@LNGTWY
TCSmith @ dol.gov@INET@LNGTWY
WOZNIAK_N @ A1@CD@LNGTWY
backup @ wilson.ai.mit.edu@INET@LNGTWY
cmbeach @ msn.com@INET@LNGTWY
dmilbank @ tnr.com@INET@LNGTWY
julie_green @ ed.gov@INET@LNGTWY
klasky_helaine @ ustr.gov@INET@LNGTWY
meglynn @ usia.gov@INET@LNGTWY
newsdesk @ usnewswire.com@INET@LNGTWY
skgmd @ umich.edu@INET@LNGTWY
tingen-terri @ dol.gov@INET@LNGTWY
usia01 @ access.digex.com@INET@LNGTWY
usnwire @ access.digex.com@INET@LNGTWY
wh-outbox-distr @ pub.pub.whitehouse.gov@INET@LNGTWY

ARMS Email SystemRECORD TYPE: PRESIDENTIAL (NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: Elisabeth Steele (CN=Elisabeth Steele/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])

CREATION DATE/TIME:24-SEP-1998 13:32:03.00

SUBJECT: 1998-9-24 remarks on poverty and income report

TO: Jane.bullock (Jane.bullock @ fema.gov [UNKNOWN])

READ:UNKNOWN

TO: elias.mark (elias.mark @ fema.gov @ inet [UNKNOWN])

READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Michael.Coen (Michael.Coen @ fema.gov@INET@LNGTWY [UNKNOWN])

READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

----- Forwarded by Elisabeth Steele/WHO/EOP on 09/24/98
01:31 PM -----

SUNTUM_M @ A1
09/24/98 01:25:00 PM

Record Type: Record

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

cc:

Subject: 1998-9-24 remarks on poverty and income report

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

September 24, 1998

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
ON INCOME AND POVERTY REPORT

The Rose Garden

12:20 P.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: She was terrific, wasn't she? Let's
give her another hand. I thought she was great. (Applause.)

Congressman Cardin, welcome. I know you're proud of your constituent here. Jessica, welcome. We're glad to see you. I think Congressman Blagojevich is here. We welcome him, along with Senator Ephraim Gonzalez, who is the President of National Hispanic Caucus of State Legislators; and Councilman Robert Cantana of Buffalo.

Let me once again thank Monique for her remarkable statement and her even more remarkable life. I'm delighted to be joined here by our economic team -- by Erskine Bowles and Secretary Rubin, Secretary Herman, Gene Sperling, Jack Lew, Janet Yellen, Larry Summers. Their tireless, often literally sleepless work has been very instrumental in sparking and maintaining what soon will be the longest peacetime boom in American history.

Officials of the Census Bureau who are here today, I want to thank all of you. We're going to be talking a little bit about some Census Bureau statistics. Sometimes we take your hard work and statistics for granted. The fact is that you ensure that our democracy is truly representative. And let me say in that connection once again, Congress must not hamstring the Census Bureau's efforts to maintain the most up-to-date, accurate scientific methods to produce the year 2000 census. They deserve the chance to succeed. (Applause.) Monique Miskimon has shown us today once again that every American counts. That means that every American deserves to be counted.

Now, before I get into the details of the very positive economic report, which Monique and her daughter so vividly represent, I think we all want to say just a few words and reflect on the powerful impact of Hurricane Georges. In the Caribbean islands, businesses and homes have been swept away; tragically, many lives have been lost. Meanwhile, the projected track of the storm places the hurricane center over or near the Florida Keys late tonight or early tomorrow morning. As we speak, we're helping the people of Florida prepare for the hurricane. We've already sent assistance to Haiti and the Dominican Republic. Obviously, we're working with the officials in Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

James Lee Witt, the Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, has informed me that FEMA's Region Six Emergency Response Team arrived in Tallahassee, Florida, at 10:00 a.m. this morning. Here in Washington, the FEMA Emergency Support Team is operating at Level One, its highest level, on a 24-hour basis.

Our support teams and our prayers are with those in the Caribbean as they begin to rebuild, and those in the Florida Keys as they brace for the impact of the storm.

Now, as President, from my first day here, I have done my best to fulfill a commitment I made to the American people: first of all, to restore the reality of the American Dream -- of opportunity for all responsible citizens, of a community in which we all count and work together -- and secondly, to reclaim the future for our children, to strengthen our country for the century ahead.

To accomplish that mission, we began first with an economic strategy to shrink the deficit and balance the budget, to invest in the education and skills of our people, and to expand the export of American goods. The census report released this morning represents one more year's worth of compelling evidence that this economic strategy is working, and that there are lots more people out there like Monique Miskimon.

The report shows that last year the income of the typical American household grew at nearly twice the rate of inflation. Since we launched our economic plan in 1993, the typical family's real income has risen by more than \$3,500. That's an extra \$3,500 that hardworking families can put toward their children's education or a down payment on a first home. Income for typical African American and Hispanic families increased by more than \$1,000 last year alone.

This report also shows that our growing economy is giving more and more families a chance to work their way out of poverty. The poverty rate fell to 13.3 percent, and while we still have plenty of room for improvement, the African American poverty rate fell to another record low. Hispanic poverty saw the largest one-year drop in two decades. Child poverty has dropped in the past four years, more than in any four-year period in the last three decades. And the Earned Income Tax Credit, which Monique spoke of a moment ago, has raised more than 4 million people out of poverty in the last year alone.

The report this morning shows that economic growth continues to raise incomes, lift millions out of poverty, and extend opportunity. It also shows that we have more to do. Since 1993, every income group has benefitted from our nation's economic growth and the lowest 20 percent of our people in terms of income have had the highest percentage increases. That's the good news, after over 20 years of increasing inequality.

But that inequality is still too high, and it simply means there are too many American families out there working hard, doing everything we could possibly ask of them, and still having a hard time getting ahead. We have to use our prosperity and the confidence that it inspires to help our hardest pressed families and our hardest pressed communities to ensure economic growth for all Americans.

The most important thing we have to do, of course, is to maintain the economic strategy that got us here in the first place -- above all, the strict fiscal discipline that has given us low

interest rates, low inflation, big investments and more jobs.

Exactly a week from today, we will have the first balanced budget and surplus since Neil Armstrong walked on the moon in 1969. Unfortunately, this week in the House of Representatives, the Republicans are moving forward with a proposal that drains the new surplus to pay for their tax plan. We can cut taxes. Indeed, my balanced budget includes targeted tax cuts for child care, for education, for environmental clean-up. But tax cuts must be paid for in full if we are to expand opportunity in the years to come.

I say again, we have been waiting for 29 years to see the red ink turn to black. We have a huge baby boom challenge coming when all the baby boomers retire. Social Security, as presently constituted, cannot sustain that retirement. We have to reform Social Security if we want to have it for our parents -- that's me, when the baby boomers retire -- without undermining the standard of living of our children and grandchildren.

So I say again, let us not get into this surplus we have worked for 29 years for -- or we've waited for 29 years for and worked for 6 years for. Let's don't get into that and spend it in an election year tax cut until we have saved Social Security for the 21st century, for the sake of our children and our grandchildren. (Applause.)

Second, we have to continue to invest in our people and lift them all up. I was deeply disappointed this week when 95 percent of the Republicans in the Senate voted not to raise the minimum wage. To reject an increase in the minimum wage when there are still so many people working full-time and raising children in poverty, when the unemployment rate and the inflation rate is so low, I believe is a mistake and sends the wrong signal to the American people.

I thank the 95 percent of the Democratic Caucus in the Senate who voted for the increase in the minimum wage. Working Americans deserve it. I'm disappointed, with only a week left in the fiscal year we rejected this, and I haven't quit fighting for it. I think eventually we will get it in the next several months; if we have to wait until next year, we will get it.

But I'm also disappointed -- as I said, a week from today we end the fiscal year and we start a new one. And there's still been no action in the Congress on our vital education investments. Indeed, what action there has been in the House of Representatives has been negative, has been a setback for education.

Congress should work with us to enact my plan, paid for in the balanced budget, to reduce class size to an average of 18 in the early grades; to hire 100,000 teachers to teach those children in smaller classes; to rebuild or to construct or repair 5,000 schools so our kids will have good, adequate, safe schools to attend; to hook up all of our classrooms -- all of them, even in the poorest

neighborhoods -- to the Internet by the year 2000; to improve early literacy by funding the program to send volunteers in to make sure that every eight-year old can read; to lift our children's sights with voluntary national standards and clear means of measuring them.

Now, if we hope to maintain our economic growth well into the next generation, we have to give every American child a world-class elementary and secondary education. So I say again, we've been here for months and months; there's just a week left in the budget year -- let's finally have action to improve our public schools and give all of our kids a world-class education. (Applause.)

The third thing I'd like to say is we have to continue to lead in the global economy if we want the American economy to continue to grow. We're enjoying unsurpassed economic prosperity, but all of you read the papers every day, you see the news at night, you know there are troubles elsewhere in the world. You know our friends in Asia and Russia are facing great turmoil. You know we're trying to keep our big trading partners and friends in Latin America from having the negative effect of that turmoil reach them even though they are pursuing good policies.

That's why it's important for Congress to fund our America's share of the International Monetary Fund, because the International Monetary Fund helps the countries that are helping themselves to return to growth, and serves as an insurance policy against having the financial crisis spread to the countries that are doing the right thing and keeping Americans at work by buying our products.

Again I say, there is no reason not to do this. We've only got a week left in the budget year. We've been talking about it all year long. The problem has only gotten worse. It is time now to say, we're doing this because it's what America owes as the world leader; and more importantly, we're doing it because it is absolutely necessary to keep American economic growth going. (Applause.)

Finally, let me say that with just a week left in this budget year, I'd still like to see the Congress pass a decent patients' bill of rights, one that covers -- (applause). Our bill would provide protections to all Americans, simple ones. If you get in an accident, you can go to the nearest emergency room, not be hauled to one halfway across town. If your doctor tells you you need to see a specialist, you can see one. If it comes down to a dispute about whether a medical procedure should or should not be applied, the decision should be made by a doctor, not an accountant. Your medical records ought to be protected in privacy. If your employer changes health care providers, it shouldn't affect you if you happen to be in the middle of a pregnancy or a chemotherapy treatment, or some other thing that would be entirely disruptive and dangerous and damaging to your health care if you had to change doctors in the middle of the procedure.

Now, we do that for everyone. The House passed a bill on a partisan vote, completely party-line vote, that doesn't protect 100 million people and doesn't provide any of those protections to the people that are covered. The Senate Majority Leader actually shut down business in the Senate a few days ago to keep them from voting for it, so they wouldn't be recorded -- they wouldn't be recorded as killing the patients' bill of rights -- but they could kill it and still satisfy the insurance companies that are doing their best to do it.

There's still time. We haven't broken for the election yet. We can still do the right thing by the American people. But we have to think about it, we have to focus on it, and we have to put our priorities where they ought to be. I think it's worth fighting for the patients' bill of rights in the closing days of this congressional session. (Applause.)

Again, I want to thank the economic team here and our supporters in the Congress, including those who are here today, for giving more Americans a chance to live the story that Monique has told us about. I want to thank her for coming today and bringing her beautiful daughter. I know we all wish them well.

Our prayers are with the people who are about to be affected and those who have been affected by the hurricane. And I ask that all of us focus on using these last days of this congressional session to think about the American people, to think about our responsibilities, to think about what got us here over the last six years, and instead of departing from it, to bear down and build on it. That is my goal and that's what we ought to do.

Thank you very much. (Applause.)

Q Mr. President, do you see any way out of an impeachment inquiry?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, let me answer you this way: the right thing to do is for us all to focus on what's best for the American people. And the right thing for me to do is what I'm doing. I'm working on leading our country, and I'm working on healing my family.

And if you look at what we announced today, what does it tell you? It proves, number one, that the course we have followed

has been the right course for America. That's what it proves. After six years, it can't be an accident anymore.

But the second thing it proves is that it is utterly foolish for people to be diverted or distracted from the urgent challenges still before us. I told you that we had a record -- a

record low in African American unemployment and poverty; a record low in the poverty rate for children, of African American children. Do you know what that record low is? It's about 39 percent. In other words, it's breathtakingly high. That's just one statistic.

So what does that tell me? It tells me that the right thing to do is, if we all put progress over partisanship, put people over politics, put the American people first -- what would we do? Well, we would keep the budget balanced. We would save Social Security before we squandered the surplus. We would improve our schools. We would clean up our environment. We would pass the patients' bill of rights. And we would keep the economy going. That's what we would be focused on. That's what I am focused on. That's the way out.

The way out here -- and the only way out is for people in Washington to do what the folks in America want them to do, which is to take care of their concerns, their children, and their future. That's what I mean to do, and I'm going to do my best. (Applause.)

END

12:38 P.M. EDT

Message Sent

To:

Lori E. Abrams
Jeannetta P. Allen
Lori L. Anderson
Brenda M. Anders
Eli G. Attie @ OVP@EOP
Patrick Aylward
Robin J. Bachman
Kyle M. Baker
Karen L. Barbuschak
Beverly J. Barnes
Brian A. Barreto
Mark H. Bartholomew
David S. Beaubaire
Paul E. Begala
Mark J. Bernstein
Marsha E. Berry
antony j. blinken
Alexander L. Boyle
Lanny A. Breuer
Patrick E. Briggs
Erin L. Brinkman
Katharine Button
Robin J. Bachman
Barbara D. Woolley
Bradley M. Campbell
Alejandro G. Cabrera @ ovp@eop
Dominique L. Cano

Laura Capps
Joseph W. Cerrell @ OVP@EOP
David K. Chai
Andrei H. Cherny @ ovp@eop
Nanda Chitre
Delia A. Cohen
Julianne B. Corbett
Gregory B. Craig
Michelle Crisci
Lisa R. Dass
Elliot J. Diringier
Jackson T. Dunn
Daniel W. Burkhardt
Debra D. Bird
Diane Ikemiyashiro
Dorian V. Weaver
Dorinda A. Salcido
Douglas Matties
Anne M. Edwards
Rahm Emanuel
Patricia M. Ewing @ OVP@EOP
Joseph C. Fanaroff
Jennifer Ferguson
Julie A. Fernandes
Martha Foley
Carmen B. Fowler
Grace A. Garcia
KARA GERHARDT
Jessica L. Gibson
Adam W. Goldberg
Julie B. Goldberg
Dario J. Gomez
David R. Goodfriend
John A. Gribben
Donald Goldberg
Lawrence J. Haas @ OVP@EOP
William C. Haymes
Maureen A. Hudson
Sheyda Jahanbani
Sheyda Jahanbani
Thomas D. Janenda
david t. johnson
Wayne C. Johnson
Michele Jolin
James M. Teague
Jon P. Jennings
Julie E. Mason
David E. Kalbaugh
Jonathan A. Kaplan
Mark A. Kitchens
Catherine T. Kitchen
Sarah S. Freeman
Jim Kohlenberger @ OVP@EOP
Kris M Balderston

Sara M. Latham
Christopher J. Lavery
Christopher S. Lehane @ OVP@EOP
Joseph P. Lockhart
Laura D. Schwartz
Laura K. Capps
Lisa J. Levin
Christine N. Macy
michael d. malone
Laura S. Marcus
Tanya E. Martin
Doris O. Matsui
Douglas R. Matties
Emory L. Mayfield
Andrew J. Mayock
Anne E. McGuire
Susanna B. McGuire
Estela Mendoza
Noa A. Meyer
R. Scott Michaud
Elisa Millsap
Cheryl D. Mills
Rajiv Y. Mody
megan moloney
Kevin Moran
Melissa M. Murray
Reuben L. Musgrave Jr.
Mindy E. Myers
Sean P. Maloney
Michael V. Terrell
Steven J. Naplan
Mark D. Neschis
Elizabeth R. Newman
Nathan B. Naylor @ ovp@eop
Neera Tanden
Jonathan Orszag
Eleanor S. Parker
Carole A. Parmelee
Sally P. Paxton
Julia M. Payne
Misty L. Phillips
Matthew W. Pitcher
Phillip Caplan
Nicole R. Rabner
Brian A. Reich @ OVP@EOP
Linda Ricci
Renee C. Riley
Robin M. Roland
Cecilia E. Rouse
Charles F. Ruff
Peter Rundlet
Virginia N. Rustique
Evan Ryan
Jodi R. Sakol @ OVP@EOP

Roger V. Salazar
G. Timothy Saunders
Jason H. Schechter
Judithanne V. Scourfield
BROOKS SCOVILLE
Maya Seiden
Barbara Semedo
Ruby Shamir
Jeffrey A. Shesol
June Shih
Robert M. Shireman
Jake Siewert
Dawn L. Smalls
Brian D. Smith
Craig T. Smith
jonathan e. smith
Mary L. Smith
Richard Socarides
Douglas B. Sosnik
Maria E. Soto
Chandler G. Spaulding
Elisabeth Steele
Aviva Steinberg
Todd Stern
Dana C. Strand
Diane A. Stumpf
Michael J. Sullivan
Jonathan H. Schnur
Tracy F. Sisser
Sylvia M. Mathews
Jordan Tamagni
Sandra L. Tijerina
Amy W. Tobe
Barry J. Toiv
Serena C. Torrey
Karen Tramontano
June G. Turner
Thomas M. Rosshirt @ ovp@eop
Thurgood Marshall Jr
Dag Vega
Virginia Apuzzo
Michael Waldman
Angelina Walker @ ovp@eop
Essence P. Washington
Glen M. Weiner
Robert S. Weiner
Peter A. Weissman
Lowell A. Weiss
Woyneab M. Wondwossen
Debra S. Wood
William H. White Jr.
SUNTUM_M @ A1@CD@LNGTWY
meglynn @ usia.gov@INET@LNGTWY
backup @ wilson.ai.mit.edu@INET@LNGTWY

wh-outbox-distr @ pub.pub.whitehouse.gov@INET@LNGTWY
BARTHOLOW_T @ A1@CD@LNGTWY
BROPHY_S @ A1@CD@LNGTWY
BUDIG_N @ A1@CD@LNGTWY
CROWLEY_P @ A1@CD@LNGTWY
CUTLER_L @ A1@CD@LNGTWY
DICKEY_L @ A1@CD@LNGTWY
FORDE_R @ A1@CD@LNGTWY
GRAY_W @ A1@CD@LNGTWY
KTORPEY @ AOL.COM@INET@LNGTWY
MOFFETT_J @ A1@CD@LNGTWY
OLCOTT_E @ A1@CD@LNGTWY
PR_U=TDIXON@PR_L=AVUOEOB@MRP@LNGTWY
RICHETTI_S @ A1@CD@LNGTWY
RUBIN_E @ A1@CD@LNGTWY
NAPLAN_S @ A1@CD@LNGTWY
SMITH_BD @ A1@CD@LNGTWY
TCSmith @ dol.gov@INET@LNGTWY
WOZNIAK_N @ A1@CD@LNGTWY
cmbeach @ msn.com@INET@LNGTWY
dmilbank @ tnr.com@INET@LNGTWY
julie_green @ ed.gov@INET@LNGTWY
klasky_helaine @ ustr.gov@INET@LNGTWY
skgmd @ umich.edu@INET@LNGTWY
tingen-terri @ dol.gov@INET@LNGTWY
usia01 @ access.digex.com@INET@LNGTWY
1=US@2=WESTERN UNION@3=@5=ATT.COM@*ELN\62955104@MRX@LNGTWY
62955104 @ eln.attmail.com@INET@LNGTWY
INFOMGT @ A1@CD@LNGTWY
newsdesk @ usnewswire.com@INET@LNGTWY
usnwire @ access.digex.com@INET@LNGTWY
Pub_Arch @ oa.eop.gov@INET@LNGTWY
Releases @ pub.pub.whitehouse.gov@INET@LNGTWY
Releases @ www3.whitehouse.gov@INET@LNGTWY