

Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001. memo	Melanne Verveer and Maria Echaveste to the President re: SOTU Gallery (6 pages)	01/18/2000	b(6)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
Speechwriting
Josh Gottheimer
OA/Box Number: 17503

FOLDER TITLE:

SOTU [State of the Union] 2000: Drafts B [binder] [5]

2016-0201-S

rc1967

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

- P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
- P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
- P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
- P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
- P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
- P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).

RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

- b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
- b(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
- b(3) Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
- b(4) Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
- b(6) Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]
- b(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
- b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
- b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

**PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON
STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS
UNITED STATES CAPITOL
WASHINGTON, DC
January 27, 2000**

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Vice President, Members of Congress, honored guests, my fellow Americans: Tonight I have the honor of delivering the first State of the Union Address of a new century and a new millennium.

We are fortunate to be alive at this moment in history. Never before has our nation enjoyed, at once, so much prosperity, social progress, and self-confidence with so little internal crisis or so few external threats. Never have our values – of freedom and democracy – been more ascendant around the world. Never have we had such a blessed opportunity – and, therefore, such a profound obligation – to build the more perfect union of our founders' dreams.

We end the 20th Century, and begin the 21st, at a high point in our history. There is no better moment to reflect on our hopes and dreams for our children. No better moment to make big plans for our nation. No better moment than today.

Today we are experiencing a remarkable American renaissance. Twenty million new jobs. The fastest economic growth in more than 30 years; the lowest unemployment rate in 30 years; the lowest poverty rate in 20 years; the first back-to-back budget surpluses in 42 years; the lowest African-American and Hispanic unemployment rate ever; the highest home ownership ever. And next month, America will achieve the longest economic expansion in our nation's history.

My fellow Americans, I stand before you tonight to report that the state of our union is strong – the strongest it has ever been.

We are experiencing not only a renaissance of the American economy, but something even more important: a renewal of the American spirit. Across our land we see a revival of responsibility. . . a renewal of the bonds of community. Who would have thought that in just seven years we could cut the welfare rolls in half, and moved millions from welfare to work? Who would have thought that we could cut crime by one quarter, to its lowest level in more than 30 years? Who would have thought that we could reverse virtually every terrible social trend of the last few decades, from teen pregnancy going down, to adoptions going up? Our social fabric, once frayed, is on the mend. ~~tonight~~

Bridge
Tonight it is clear: Our nation is prepared for the new century.

~~As always,~~
~~(It is also clear that)~~ the American people – by the hard work they do every day – deserve ~~much of~~ the credit, ~~and our thanks~~. My gratitude also goes to the many of you, here in this chamber, who

**PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON
STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS
UNITED STATES CAPITOL
WASHINGTON, DC
January 27, 2000**

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Vice President, Members of Congress, honored guests, my fellow Americans: Tonight I have the honor of delivering the first State of the Union Address of a new century and a new millennium.

We are fortunate to be alive at this moment in history. Never before has our nation enjoyed, at once, so much prosperity, social progress, and self-confidence with so little internal crisis or so few external threats. Never have our values – of freedom and democracy – been more ascendant around the world. Never have we had such a blessed opportunity – and, therefore, such a profound obligation – to build the more perfect union of our founders' dreams.

We end the 20th Century, and begin the 21st, at a high point in our history. There is no better moment to reflect on our hopes and dreams for our children. No better moment to make big plans for our nation. No better moment than today.

Today we are experiencing a remarkable American renaissance. Twenty million new jobs. The fastest economic growth in more than 30 years; the lowest unemployment rate in 30 years; the lowest poverty rate in 20 years; the first back-to-back budget surpluses in 42 years; the lowest African-American and Hispanic unemployment rate ever; the highest home ownership ever. And next month, America will achieve the longest economic expansion in our nation's history.

My fellow Americans, I stand before you tonight to report that the state of our union is strong – the strongest it has ever been.

We are experiencing not only a renaissance of the American economy, but something even more important: a renewal of the American spirit. Across our land we see a revival of responsibility. . . a renewal of the bonds of community. Who would have thought that in just seven years we could cut the welfare rolls in half, and moved millions from welfare to work? Who would have thought that we could cut crime by one quarter, to its lowest level in more than 30 years? Who would have thought that we could reverse virtually every terrible social trend of the last few decades, from teen pregnancy going down, to adoptions going up? Our social fabric, once frayed, is on the mend. ~~tonight~~

Bridge
Tonight it is clear: Our nation is prepared for the new century.

~~It is also clear that~~ *As always,* the American people – by the hard work they do every day – deserve ~~much of~~ the credit, ~~and our thanks.~~ My gratitude also goes to the many of you, here in this chamber, who

At a time when ^{we are} technology ^{is} transforming our world, let's ^{us} realize ^{their} full promise and make sure our values guide our progress.

~~At a time when we have passed our government's charter, let's prove we can reverse~~

At a time of steadily falling crime, let's make America the safest big nation on Earth.

At a time when more families are working families, let's ensure that parents have the tools to succeed at work and at the most important work of all – raising children.

At a time when knowledge is the key to the new economy, let's make sure every child begins school ready to learn and graduates ready to succeed.

At a time when America is growing more diverse than ever, let's finally become what we've always known we can be: one nation, under God, indivisible.

^{writing of a great nation}
These are big goals. We may not reach them this year. But I believe we will reach them. And we will get there the same way we got here: not in one single leap, but step by step – always building on our progress, moving forward, gaining ground.

<sup>seriously
the light
my not
question</sup>
Of course, you can't gain ground if you're standing still. And for too long, this Congress has been standing still on some of our most pressing national priorities. Let's get moving. This year, let's strengthen Social Security. Let's modernize Medicare with a voluntary prescription-drug benefit. Let's pass a real patients' bill of rights. Let's pass common-sense gun-safety legislation. Let's pass meaningful hate-crimes legislation. Let's raise the minimum wage.

But that will only be the beginning of our journey.

Tonight, I will propose the first steps into the bold new frontier of the 21st century. I will begin with a New Opportunity Agenda for this new era—an agenda rooted in responsibility, and designed to create a stronger and more inclusive community. At its core is a simple, powerful, fundamental principle: "Opportunity for all."

This new agenda updates an old American value for the Information Age. Two centuries ago, at our nation's founding, opportunity meant, most of all, the freedom to carve a farm and an existence out of the forest frontier. Fifty years ago, opportunity meant a high school education – or even the G.I. Bill – and a job for life. Today, opportunity means something different. It means having a computer and knowing how to use it. It means changing careers and a lifetime of learning. It means mastering the tools and technologies of the new economy, in which ideas and information are the keys to success.

Our first steps into the 21st Century must be the right steps. They must be guided, first and foremost, by our faith that all children can learn and all adults can succeed.

OPPORTUNITY AND RESPONSIBILITY IN EDUCATION

At a time when ^{medicine and} technology ^{are} transforming our world, let's ^{us} realize ^{their} full promise and make sure our values guide our progress.

~~At a time when we have peace, we can grow more & cleaner energy, let's prove we can reverse~~
At a time of steadily falling crime, let's make America the safest big nation on Earth. ^{Antifish of change and least one patch a safety plan}

At a time when more families are working families, let's ensure that parents have the tools to succeed at work and at the most important work of all – raising children. — ^{Hearts for team}

At a time when knowledge is the key to the new economy, let's make sure every child begins school ready to learn and graduates ready to succeed.

At a time when America is growing more diverse than ever, let's finally become what we've always known we can be: one nation, under God, indivisible. ^{What?}

^{writing of a great nation}
These are big goals. We may not reach them this year. But I believe we will reach them. And we will get there the same way we got here: not in one single leap, but step by step – always building on our progress, moving forward, gaining ground.

^{Actually do life my first question}
Of course, you can't gain ground if you're standing still. And for too long, this Congress has been standing still on some of our most pressing national priorities. Let's get moving. This year, let's strengthen Social Security. Let's modernize Medicare with a voluntary prescription-drug benefit. Let's pass a real patients' bill of rights. Let's pass common-sense gun-safety legislation. Let's pass meaningful hate-crimes legislation. Let's raise the minimum wage.

But that will only be the beginning of our journey.

Tonight, I will propose the first steps into the bold new frontier of the 21st century. I will begin with a New Opportunity Agenda for this new era—an agenda rooted in responsibility, and designed to create a stronger and more inclusive community. At its core is a simple, powerful, fundamental principle: "Opportunity for all."

This new agenda updates an old American value for the Information Age. Two centuries ago, at our nation's founding, opportunity meant, most of all, the freedom to carve a farm and an existence out of the forest frontier. Fifty years ago, opportunity meant a high school education – or even the G.I. Bill – and a job for life. Today, opportunity means something different. It means having a computer and knowing how to use it. It means changing careers and a lifetime of learning. It means mastering the tools and technologies of the new economy, in which ideas and information are the keys to success.

Our first steps into the 21st Century must be the right steps. They must be guided, first and foremost, by our faith that all children can learn and all adults can succeed.

OPPORTUNITY AND RESPONSIBILITY IN EDUCATION

For seven years we have pursued a simple strategy on education: Invest more, and demand more in return. Offer opportunity, but demand responsibility. We have helped nearly every state set higher academic standards for their schools. We are closing in on our goal of connecting every classroom and library in America to the Internet. And for two years in a row, Congress has supported our effort to hire 100,000 new, qualified teachers, to lower class sizes in the early grades. This Congress must continue that support.

With these and other efforts, our students are learning more. Scores on college entrance exams are going up, even as more students from more-diverse backgrounds are taking the test. And some of the most impressive academic gains are happening in schools in some of America's poorest neighborhoods.

Schools like Beaufort [B'YOU-fert] Elementary in South Carolina. Five years ago, Beaufort was classified as one of the state's worst-performing schools. But under a new principal, Ruth Summerlin, Beaufort embraced accountability and higher academic standards, and started afterschool and summer school programs for students who were behind. Today, Beaufort's math and test scores exceed the state average, and local parents are pulling their children out of private schools and putting them in Beaufort. Ruth Summerlin is with us here tonight. *Thank you for proving what our children can do.*

I have visited schools like Beaufort all across America -- schools that have turned themselves around with the same proven formula: greater accountability, higher standards, and the conviction that all students can learn. Unfortunately, there are too many low-performing schools in this country that are not applying these lessons -- schools where, year after year, children fail to get the knowledge and skills they need to make the most of their God-given talents.

Last year, from this podium, I proposed an Education Accountability Act, to fundamentally change the way the federal government invests in our schools -- to support what we know works, and stop supporting what doesn't. This year, I challenge Congress to not only pass that measure, but to make dramatic new investments in ideas we know are working.

We know that quality afterschool and summer school programs boost academic achievement. They also keep children off the street in the hours before parents get home from work, when juvenile crime soars. Tonight, I propose that we double our investment for afterschool and summer school. If we do this, we can give every child in every failing school in America the chance to meet high standards -- and to beat them.

We know that our children who learn early learn best. And since 1993, we've put over 150,000 more children in the successful Head Start pre-school program, and improved the quality of Head Start. Tonight, I propose the largest funding increase for Head Start in history. With this increase, plus greater investment in early learning, we can take the first step toward providing universal pre-school for every four-year-old in America.

We know that if we want our children to learn, we need good teachers and principals. Tonight, I propose new efforts to help states and school districts recruit the best and brightest

For seven years we have pursued a simple strategy on education: Invest more, and demand more in return. Offer opportunity, but demand responsibility. We have helped nearly every state set higher academic standards for their schools. We are closing in on our goal of connecting every classroom and library in America to the Internet. And for two years in a row, Congress has supported our effort to hire 100,000 new, qualified teachers, to lower class sizes in the early grades. This Congress must continue that support.

With these and other efforts, our students are learning more. Scores on college entrance exams are going up, even as more students from more-diverse backgrounds are taking the test. And some of the most impressive academic gains are happening in schools in some of America's poorest neighborhoods.

Schools like Beaufort [B'YOU-fert] Elementary in South Carolina. Five years ago, Beaufort was classified as one of the state's worst-performing schools. But under a new principal, Ruth Summerlin, Beaufort embraced accountability and higher academic standards, and started afterschool and summer school programs for students who were behind. Today, Beaufort's math and test scores exceed the state average, and local parents are pulling their children out of private schools and putting them in Beaufort. Ruth Summerlin is with us here tonight. *Thank you for proving what our children can do.*

I have visited schools like Beaufort all across America -- schools that have turned themselves around with the same proven formula: greater accountability, higher standards, and the conviction that all students can learn. Unfortunately, there are too many low-performing schools in this country that are not applying these lessons -- schools where, year after year, children fail to get the knowledge and skills they need to make the most of their God-given talents.

Last year, from this podium, I proposed an Education Accountability Act, to fundamentally change the way the federal government invests in our schools -- to support what we know works, and stop supporting what doesn't. This year, I challenge Congress to not only pass that measure, but to make dramatic new investments in ideas we know are working.

We know that quality afterschool and summer school programs boost academic achievement. They also keep children off the street in the hours before parents get home from work, when juvenile crime soars. Tonight, I propose that we double our investment for afterschool and summer school. If we do this, we can give every child in every failing school in America the chance to meet high standards -- and to beat them.

We know that our children who learn early learn best. And since 1993, we've put over 150,000 more children in the successful Head Start pre-school program, and improved the quality of Head Start. Tonight, I propose the largest funding increase for Head Start in history. With this increase, plus greater investment in early learning, we can take the first step toward providing universal pre-school for every four-year-old in America.

We know that if we want our children to learn, we need good teachers and principals. Tonight, I propose new efforts to help states and school districts recruit the best and brightest

people to teaching, train principals as leaders and get rid of bad ones. And we must finish the job of hiring 100,000 qualified teachers to reduce class size.

We know that antiquated classrooms get in the way of learning, and that a third of all schools in America are in serious disrepair – with leaky roofs and antiquated electrical wiring. Tonight, I propose new investments to make immediate, urgent repairs to our schools. I renew my call for a tax credit to help build or modernize 6,000 schools nationwide – so we can take our children out of trailers and put them in modern classrooms. And let's make our high schools safer and better by investing in making them smaller. Let's make sure our kids go to schools where everybody knows their name.

How much
how much

We know that we must turnaround failing schools – or shut them down. Last fall, Congress passed my plan to give districts the resources to do so. This year, let's double that investment. Let's also increase our investment in charter schools, to give parents more choice. And let's give bonuses to states that succeed in making scores go up across the board.

6.92

We must also do more to help high school students prepare for, and succeed in, college. We must increase tutoring and mentoring efforts, bring advanced placement courses to schools in isolated rural areas via the Internet, and offer disadvantaged students the same test prep courses wealthier students use to boost their scores on college entrance exams. [TK: Schumer/ college tax ideas]

And
what
classroom
on
Today's
status
[B19]

REWARDING WORK AND STRENGTHENING FAMILIES

It is often said that the foundation of American life is the family. I would add "the working family," for it is through work that we support our families, and pass on our values to our children. That is why the basic goal of so much of what we have done -- from reforming welfare to raising the minimum wage -- has been to encourage and reward work; to give more opportunities for a better life to all families responsible enough to work for it.

Simply put: When you work hard and play by the rules, good things should follow. From your standard of living, to your savings, to your self-esteem.

One of the most powerful incentives to work has been the Earned Income Tax Credit, a targeted tax cut for low-income working families. The "E" in "EITC" is about earning; about working; about taking responsibility and being rewarded for it. As one of my first actions as President, I asked the Congress to dramatically expand the EITC, and we did. As a result, the EITC helped more than 4.3 million Americans in 1998 work their way into the middle class – double the number in 1993.

Tonight I propose that we expand opportunity by substantially expanding the EITC. We should reduce the marriage penalty for the EITC, making sure that this tax credit rewards marriage, and family, just as it rewards work, and expand the tax credit for families with more than two children. Our plan would provide those families up to \$1,200 more in tax relief. That's enough for the average family to pay three months' mortgage or eight months of health care

people to teaching, train principals as leaders and get rid of bad ones. And we must finish the job of hiring 100,000 qualified teachers to reduce class size.

We know that antiquated classrooms get in the way of learning, and that a third of all schools in America are in serious disrepair – with leaky roofs and antiquated electrical wiring. Tonight, I propose new investments to make immediate, urgent repairs to our schools. I renew my call for a tax credit to help build or modernize 6,000 schools nationwide – so we can take our children out of trailers and put them in modern classrooms. And let's make our high schools safer and better by investing in making them smaller. Let's make sure our kids go to schools where everybody knows their name.

How much money

We know that we must turnaround failing schools – or shut them down. Last fall, Congress passed my plan to give districts the resources to do so. This year, let's double that investment. Let's also increase our investment in charter schools, to give parents more choice. And let's give bonuses to states that succeed in making scores go up across the board.

6.92

We must also do more to help high school students prepare for, and succeed in, college. We must increase tutoring and mentoring efforts, bring advanced placement courses to schools in isolated rural areas via the Internet, and offer disadvantaged students the same test prep courses wealthier students use to boost their scores on college entrance exams. [TK: Schumer/ college tax ideas]

Need more data on today's students
[319]

REWARDING WORK AND STRENGTHENING FAMILIES

It is often said that the foundation of American life is the family. I would add “the working family,” for it is through work that we support our families, and pass on our values to our children. That is why the basic goal of so much of what we have done -- from reforming welfare to raising the minimum wage -- has been to encourage and reward work; to give more opportunities for a better life to all families responsible enough to work for it.

Simply put: When you work hard and play by the rules, good things should follow. From your standard of living, to your savings, to your self-esteem.

One of the most powerful incentives to work has been the Earned Income Tax Credit, a targeted tax cut for low-income working families. The “E” in “EITC” is about earning; about working; about taking responsibility and being rewarded for it. As one of my first actions as President, I asked the Congress to dramatically expand the EITC, and we did. As a result, the EITC helped more than 4.3 million Americans in 1998 work their way into the middle class – double the number in 1993.

Tonight I propose that we expand opportunity by substantially expanding the EITC. We should reduce the marriage penalty for the EITC, making sure that this tax credit rewards marriage, and family, just as it rewards work, and expand the tax credit for families with more than two children. Our plan would provide those families up to \$1,200 more in tax relief. That's enough for the average family to pay three months' mortgage or eight months of health care

coverage. And it's an added incentive to make their way into the middle class. They're working hard for it. We should help them to reach it.

For people who play by the rules, there's something else that should be within reach: their place of work. But two-thirds of new jobs are in the suburbs, far away from many low-income families. In the past two years, I have proposed and Congress has approved 110,000 new housing vouchers – to ^{help} more Americans live where opportunities abound. This year, let's more than double that number. If we want people to go to work, they have to be able to get to work. *What can we do for*

Wherever they live, working parents need quality child care. Last year, we helped parents provide care for 1.25 million children. But child care should be better, safer, and more affordable. It's what our children deserve and what working parents need. My child care initiative would increase and improve care for 150,000 more children. And it's time we make the child care tax credit refundable to help families who need it most. Parents should be able to balance work and family – not have to choose between them. *Some ideas*

*Orain
Bridge
Goal* Three years ago, we created a new way for hard-pressed working families to provide health care for their children: the Children's Health Insurance Program. In less than a year, enrollment CHIP has doubled, to 2 million children. But we must do more. As Vice President Gore has been saying, if states are looking to insure more children, they should go where the children are – in schools, churches, and child-care centers. And we should take the next step and enroll their parents, too. Nine million of them are eligible, but uninsured. And let's give a real, affordable option to the fastest growing group of uninsured: people between 55 and 65 who lose their coverage. We should allow them to buy into Medicare, *and give them some help to do it – \$5?* *Health to cover them?* *new word*

[Tipper Gore, Mental Health – TK]

And let's make sure that men and women get equal pay for equal work. Today, women earn 75 cents for every dollar men earn. That's just not good enough. My budget ^{provides} much needed resources to enforce equal pay laws, and to train women for high-paying, high-tech jobs. ~~And we should pass the Paycheck Fairness Act. That will go a long way toward opportunity and dignity for working women.~~ *that*

This year, I am proposing a progressive savings initiative to help low- and moderate-income families work and save for retirement. [policy TK]

Franklin Roosevelt once said that "personal responsibility, guided by collective conscience, is the discipline of democracy." We have no greater responsibility than to love and support the children we bring into this world. Yet nearly one child in three in America today grows up in a home without a father – and these children are five times more likely to live in poverty than children with both parents at home. I know many single mothers do a magnificent job of raising their children. But their task is made infinitely harder when there is no father to contribute income and love; to share the burdens and joys of parenthood; to teach the boys to be men and the girls to expect respect from men. Four years ago, we made an historic reform of welfare that has helped millions of mothers move from dependency on a welfare check to the

coverage. And it's an added incentive to make their way into the middle class. They're working hard for it. We should help them to reach it.

For people who play by the rules, there's something else that should be within reach: their place of work. But two-thirds of new jobs are in the suburbs, far away from many low-income families. In the past two years, I have proposed and Congress has approved 110,000 new housing vouchers – to ^{help} more Americans live where opportunities abound. This year, let's more than double that number. If we want people to go to work, they have to be able to get to work. *What can we do for*

Wherever they live, working parents need quality child care. Last year, we helped parents provide care for 1.25 million children. But child care should be better, safer, and more affordable. It's what our children deserve and what working parents need. My child care initiative would increase and improve care for 150,000 more children. And it's time we make the child care tax credit refundable to help families who need it most. Parents should be able to balance work and family – not have to choose between them. *Sum of all*

*Orain
Bridge
Goal* Three years ago, we created a new way for hard-pressed working families to provide health care for their children: the Children's Health Insurance Program. In less than a year, enrollment CHIP has doubled, to 2 million children. But we must do more. As Vice President Gore has been saying, if states are looking to insure more children, they should go where the children are – in schools, churches, and child-care centers. And we should take the next step and enroll their parents, too. Nine million of them are eligible, but uninsured. And let's give a real, affordable option to the fastest growing group of uninsured: people between 55 and 65 who lose their coverage. We should allow them to buy into Medicare, *and give them some help to do it – \$5?* *fixed to cover 2 million?* *Answer*

[Tipper Gore, Mental Health – TK]

And let's make sure that men and women get equal pay for equal work. Today, women earn 75 cents for every dollar men earn. That's just not good enough. *more* My budget provides much needed resources to enforce equal pay laws, and to train women for high-paying, high-tech jobs. ~~And we should pass the Paycheck Fairness Act. That will go a long way toward opportunity and dignity for working women.~~ *And.*

This year, I am proposing a progressive savings initiative to help low- and moderate-income families work and save for retirement. [policy TK]

Franklin Roosevelt once said that "personal responsibility, guided by collective conscience, is the discipline of democracy." We have no greater responsibility than to love and support the children we bring into this world. Yet nearly one child in three in America today grows up in a home without a father – and these children are five times more likely to live in poverty than children with both parents at home. I know many single mothers do a magnificent job of raising their children. But their task is made infinitely harder when there is no father to contribute income and love; to share the burdens and joys of parenthood; to teach the boys to be men and the girls to expect respect from men. Four years ago, we made an historic reform of welfare that has helped millions of mothers move from dependency on a welfare check to the

dignity of a paycheck. Demanding and promoting responsible fatherhood is the critical next stage of welfare reform.

We have already begun, over the last seven years, to crack down on fathers who fail to pay child support by denying them drivers' licenses and creating a national database to track them across state lines. As a result, child support payments have doubled since 1993. The number of unwed fathers who legally acknowledge their paternity has tripled. ~~And~~ The percentage of children born into unwed homes, after skyrocketing for decades, has begun to level off, and the teenage birth rate is falling.

This is progress. But we must accelerate that progress, step by step, until the day that every father in America takes responsibility for his children. We can begin by toughening measures against fathers who owe child support, such as booting their cars. We can give fathers even more incentive to contribute by allowing more of their child support payments to go directly to their families. *Cover*

And to absent parents who owe child support, we should say: we'll help you do right by your children, but you have to go to work, and pay them what you owe.

Helping absent parents and others join the culture of work is good not just for them and their families. At a time when businesses across America have labor shortages, it is also good for our economy. Four years ago, I asked corporate leaders to join with us in a partnership to provide jobs to those leaving the welfare rolls. Today, 12,000 companies have hired nearly 650,000 former welfare recipients. Yet these companies need still more new workers. And they say they are increasingly willing to hire from a growing pool of potential labor: the half-million ex-offenders who leave our prisons every year. Tonight, I propose a new initiative to train, counsel, and more carefully monitor ex-offenders so they can become responsible employees, family members, and citizens.

For our economy to continue to enjoy rapid growth without inflation, it is vital that our corporations find not just new workers to hire, but new opportunities to invest, and new markets in which to sell. I believe these new markets exist right here in America—in the inner cities, poor rural areas, and Indian reservations -- places that have not yet been blessed by our nation's prosperity. Over the last six months, I have traveled to many of these places -- joined by many of you -- to shine a spotlight on the enormous opportunities in America's new markets.

Now, more than ever, we have the means to expand the circle of opportunity wide enough to include the men and women at its margins, so that no one who's willing to work is left behind as our nation moves ahead. For business, it's the smart thing to do. And for America, it's the right thing to do. If we don't do it now, when will we ever get around to it?

I believe businesses should have the same incentives to invest in America's new markets as they have to invest in new markets abroad. In this year's budget, I call on Congress to double our New Markets Tax Credit, to spur \$12 billion in new equity capital for our untapped markets. We should also greatly increase funding to help large-scale businesses expand or relocate to our

dignity of a paycheck. Demanding and promoting responsible fatherhood is the critical next stage of welfare reform.

We have already begun, over the last seven years, to crack down on fathers who fail to pay child support by denying them drivers' licenses and creating a national database to track them across state lines. As a result, child support payments have doubled since 1993. The number of unwed fathers who legally acknowledge their paternity has tripled. ~~And~~ the percentage of children born into unwed homes, after skyrocketing for decades, has begun to level off, and the teenage birth rate is falling.

This is progress. But we must accelerate that progress, step by step, until the day that every father in America takes responsibility for his children. We can begin by toughening measures against fathers who owe child support, such as booting their cars. We can give fathers even more incentive to contribute by allowing more of their child support payments to go directly to their families. *Copy*

And to absent parents who owe child support, we should say: we'll help you do right by your children, but you have to go to work, and pay them what you owe.

Helping absent parents and others join the culture of work is good not just for them and their families. At a time when businesses across America have labor shortages, it is also good for our economy. Four years ago, I asked corporate leaders to join with us in a partnership to provide jobs to those leaving the welfare rolls. Today, 12,000 companies have hired nearly 650,000 former welfare recipients. Yet these companies need still more new workers. And they say they are increasingly willing to hire from a growing pool of potential labor: the half-million ex-offenders who leave our prisons every year. Tonight, I propose a new initiative to train, counsel, and more carefully monitor ex-offenders so they can become responsible employees, family members, and citizens.

For our economy to continue to enjoy rapid growth without inflation, it is vital that our corporations find not just new workers to hire, but new opportunities to invest, and new markets in which to sell. I believe these new markets exist right here in America—in the inner cities, poor rural areas, and Indian reservations -- places that have not yet been blessed by our nation's prosperity. Over the last six months, I have traveled to many of these places -- joined by many of you -- to shine a spotlight on the enormous opportunities in America's new markets.

Now, more than ever, we have the means to expand the circle of opportunity wide enough to include the men and women at its margins, so that no one who's willing to work is left behind as our nation moves ahead. For business, it's the smart thing to do. And for America, it's the right thing to do. If we don't do it now, when will we ever get around to it?

I believe businesses should have the same incentives to invest in America's new markets as they have to invest in new markets abroad. In this year's budget, I call on Congress to double our New Markets Tax Credit, to spur \$12 billion in new equity capital for our untapped markets. We should also greatly increase funding to help large-scale businesses expand or relocate to our

inner cities or rural areas. And we should increase the tax incentives that promote growth in our Empowerment Zones.

Speaker Hastert, it was a powerful moment last November when you joined me and Reverend Jesse Jackson on stage at Englewood High School, in your home state of Illinois, and pledged to work with my administration on common ground for New Markets legislation. ^{So} ~~let's work together~~ to finish the job. *of Amendment for y*
Chairman I pledge to make it

Last July, I became the first President to visit an Indian reservation since Franklin Roosevelt. That's far too long. In this new century, let's honor our historic responsibility to Native Americans – the first Americans. My budget increases by more than \$1 billion our investment in health care, education, law enforcement, and infrastructure. Indian Country is a new market America should not – and must not – ignore.

We must also fulfill our obligation to our farming communities, the lifeblood of our land. When I signed the farm bill in 1996, I ^{figured} ~~was concerned~~ it would work well in good times but ~~not~~ ^{not} ~~well~~ ^{in bad times}. In recent years, our ^{family} ~~farms~~ have endured droughts and floods and ~~from~~ ^{financial} crises abroad. ~~Our New Markets Initiative will help them diversify their economic base. But let's also do more than mend the farm safety net – let's strengthen it.~~ *historically*
was president
in 1996
to strengthen

This spring, I will lead a New Markets tour to focus on another challenge: the growing “digital divide” between those who have access to the new economy and those who don't. ~~But~~ ^{The} very technology that drives our expansion also creates tools to ensure that everyone, from the city to the farm to the reservation, can join in building our nation. My budget creates 1,000 new technology centers to connect poor communities to the economic mainstream. It also helps mobilize the combined force of public, private, and nonprofit sectors to increase Internet access in low-income areas. Because you can't get in the game until you have the tools to play.

GLOBAL CHANGE AND AMERICAN LEADERSHIP

As we move to master the possibilities of the new economy at home, we must also lead in shaping a global economy that extends our prosperity – and expresses our values.

~~Our~~ International trade now accounts for one-quarter of our economy. It creates good jobs and brings us new products and technologies. We need to keep that trade growing, and make sure it grows fairly. That means enforcing our own rules to protect our workers, our industries, and our environment. It means making international trade – and the WTO – more open and responsive to concerns about dignity of work and quality of life. And it means remembering that a global economy based on rules is far preferable than one with no rules at all.

That is why China should join the WTO and live under the same trade rules we do. And when it does, America's companies and workers should gain new opportunities in every sector or China's vast market. I ask Congress to lock in this opportunity by passing Permanent Normal Trade Relations status for China. This is a good deal for America. It will level the playing field in U.S.-China trade, and it is a chance to help China along the road to change.

inner cities or rural areas. And we should increase the tax incentives that promote growth in our Empowerment Zones.

Speaker Hastert, it was a powerful moment last November when you joined me and Reverend Jesse Jackson on stage at Englewood High School, in your home state of Illinois, and pledged to work with my administration on common ground for New Markets legislation. ~~So let's work together~~ to finish the job. *of America for the country I pledge to make for you*

Last July, I became the first President to visit an Indian reservation since Franklin Roosevelt. That's far too long. In this new century, let's honor our historic responsibility to Native Americans – the first Americans. My budget increases by more than \$1 billion our investment in health care, education, law enforcement, and infrastructure. Indian Country is a new market America should not – and must not – ignore.

We must also fulfill our obligation to our farming communities, the lifeblood of our land. When I signed the farm bill in 1996, I was concerned it would work well in good times but ~~not~~ *not* well in bad times. In recent years, our family farms have endured droughts and floods and ~~financial crises abroad. Our New Markets Initiative will help them diversify their economic base. But let's also do more than mend the farm safety net – let's strengthen it.~~ *financially less preferable*

This spring, I will lead a New Markets tour to focus on another challenge: the growing "digital divide" between those who have access to the new economy and those who don't. ~~But~~ *But* the very technology that drives our expansion also creates tools to ensure that everyone, from the city to the farm to the reservation, can join in building our nation. My budget creates 1,000 new technology centers to connect poor communities to the economic mainstream. It also helps mobilize the combined force of public, private, and nonprofit sectors to increase Internet access in low-income areas. Because you can't get in the game until you have the tools to play.

GLOBAL CHANGE AND AMERICAN LEADERSHIP

As we move to master the possibilities of the new economy at home, we must also lead in shaping a global economy that extends our prosperity – and expresses our values.

~~Our~~ International trade now accounts for one-quarter of our economy. It creates good jobs and brings us new products and technologies. We need to keep that trade growing, and make sure it grows fairly. That means enforcing our own rules to protect our workers, our industries, and our environment. It means making international trade – and the WTO – more open and responsive to concerns about dignity of work and quality of life. And it means remembering that a global economy based on rules is far preferable than one with no rules at all.

That is why China should join the WTO and live under the same trade rules we do. And when it does, America's companies and workers should gain new opportunities in every sector or China's vast market. I ask Congress to lock in this opportunity by passing Permanent Normal Trade Relations status for China. This is a good deal for America. It will level the playing field in U.S.-China trade, and it is a chance to help China along the road to change.

When we engage in the global economy, we are investing in our shared future. Growth from trade is not just vital for us, but for the 1.3 billion people around the world who still live on less than a dollar a day. To help pass opportunity on to them, we should do our part – our full part – to reduce the debts that cripple the world's poorest nations. I ask Congress to support that effort, and to finalize our initiatives to unlock new trade with Africa and the Caribbean Basin. If we stay engaged, we will be helping Americans master the new economy . . . and helping others around the world become masters of their own future.

At a moment when American power is unrivaled and the world is coming together around ideals we have lived by and died for, we have a responsibility to lead. Never forget the Americans who struggled to give us this chance. Never forget that hundreds of millions of people live in peace today because of the Americans who rest in peace in graves marked and unmarked across the world. We have come too far, sacrificed too much, to stop the world and get off now; we must continue to shape the world. So let us look beyond our borders to the big questions that will shape the 21st century world, and look within for the strength to find the answers.

A central question is whether our security will be threatened by regional conflicts, especially those rooted in ethnic and religious tensions, that pose the risk of wider war. With all its amazing advances, our modern world is still bedeviled by our oldest failing – fear of those who are different from us. In too many places, that fear is exploited by unscrupulous leaders trying to cling to power or make brutal war on their neighbors.

America cannot prevent every conflict or stop every outrage. But when our interests and our values are at stake and we can make a difference, we must be peacemakers. For history teaches that all big wars start small, and when human beings anywhere are singled out for destruction because of who they are, it is our common humanity that suffers.

We should be proud that we have helped bring the Middle East closer than ever to comprehensive peace. [Update on Israel-Syria; essential that America does its share].

We should be proud of the role America played in bring peace to Northern Ireland... in helping to end the bloodletting in East Timor...in supporting efforts to end Africa's cruel wars.

And we should be proud of the men and women of our armed forces who made it possible for a million innocent people to return home to Kosovo last year. Now, instead of struggling to defeat something evil, we can focus on building something good: a Europe undivided, democratic and at peace for the first time in history.

With us today are two Americans who've shown how both power and persuasion can serve the cause of peace. When Slobodan Milosevic unleashed ethnic cleansing in Kosovo, Captain John Cherrey was one of the brave airmen who turned the tide – and when an American plane went down, he flew into the teeth of Serbian air defenses to bring its pilot home. When the peace process in Northern Ireland was in trouble, the man who did so much to start it went back one more time to save it, and now, with George Mitchell's help, the people there have a working

When we engage in the global economy, we are investing in our shared future. Growth from trade is not just vital for us, but for the 1.3 billion people around the world who still live on less than a dollar a day. To help pass opportunity on to them, we should do our part – our full part – to reduce the debts that cripple the world's poorest nations. I ask Congress to support that effort, and to finalize our initiatives to unlock new trade with Africa and the Caribbean Basin. If we stay engaged, we will be helping Americans master the new economy . . . and helping others around the world become masters of their own future.

At a moment when American power is unrivaled and the world is coming together around ideals we have lived by and died for, we have a responsibility to lead. Never forget the Americans who struggled to give us this chance. Never forget that hundreds of millions of people live in peace today because of the Americans who rest in peace in graves marked and unmarked across the world. We have come too far, sacrificed too much, to stop the world and get off now; we must continue to shape the world. So let us look beyond our borders to the big questions that will shape the 21st century world, and look within for the strength to find the answers.

A central question is whether our security will be threatened by regional conflicts, especially those rooted in ethnic and religious tensions, that pose the risk of wider war. With all its amazing advances, our modern world is still bedeviled by our oldest failing – fear of those who are different from us. In too many places, that fear is exploited by unscrupulous leaders trying to cling to power or make brutal war on their neighbors.

America cannot prevent every conflict or stop every outrage. But when our interests and our values are at stake and we can make a difference, we must be peacemakers. For history teaches that all big wars start small, and when human beings anywhere are singled out for destruction because of who they are, it is our common humanity that suffers.

We should be proud that we have helped bring the Middle East closer than ever to comprehensive peace. [Update on Israel-Syria; essential that America does its share].

We should be proud of the role America played in bring peace to Northern Ireland... in helping to end the bloodletting in East Timor...in supporting efforts to end Africa's cruel wars.

And we should be proud of the men and women of our armed forces who made it possible for a million innocent people to return home to Kosovo last year. Now, instead of struggling to defeat something evil, we can focus on building something good: a Europe undivided, democratic and at peace for the first time in history.

With us today are two Americans who've shown how both power and persuasion can serve the cause of peace. When Slobodan Milosevic unleashed ethnic cleansing in Kosovo, Captain John Cherrey was one of the brave airmen who turned the tide – and when an American plane went down, he flew into the teeth of Serbian air defenses to bring its pilot home. When the peace process in Northern Ireland was in trouble, the man who did so much to start it went back one more time to save it, and now, with George Mitchell's help, the people there have a working

government with all parties represented. Captain Cherrey, Senator Mitchell, we honor you with our gratitude, and with our determination to finish the work you helped begin.

A second question is whether our former adversaries, Russia and China, emerge in the coming century as stable, prosperous, democratic partners of the United States.

Today, we face a Russia weakened by the legacy of communism, by economic crisis, by a cruel and futile war in Chechnya. But never forget how much else has changed: 5,000 former Soviet nuclear weapons dismantled; Russian troops serving with us in the Balkans; a constitutional transfer of power from one leader to another for the first time in a 1000 years of Russian history. Russia's long journey to democracy is profoundly important. A generation from now, let it be said we did our part to help.

As for China, we must promote our interest with firmness, but not fear. China cannot buy its stability and stature at the expense of freedom. But let us not isolate China from the global forces empowering its people to seek a better life. We want to see China on the inside, playing by the rules, not on the outside denying them.

A third question for the new century is whether terrorists and hostile nations will acquire the means to undermine our defenses, and make us live in fear again.

Thanks in part to the biggest counter-terrorism operation in our history, the millennial celebrations passed without a violent attack. But this age-old threat, magnified by modern tools of destruction, remains real.

To prevent terrorists and potential adversaries from acquiring deadly weapons, we must work with Russia to keep nuclear weapons secure and continue to reduce our arsenals. We must restrain nuclear and missile programs in North Korea and Iran's, and continuing to prevent Iraq from threatening its neighbors. And we must strength global standards against proliferation. That is why I am committed to working with the Senate on a bipartisan basis to rebuild a consensus for the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty.

We are also developing a system to defend America against missile attack from outlaw nations, while working to preserve the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty with Russia. And my balanced budget devotes \$2 billion to defend America's cyberspace against hackers, criminals and potential adversaries.

A fourth question is whether the stability of the 21st century would will be threatened by a growing gap between rich and poor. We just cannot accept a future in which part of humanity lives on the cutting edge of a new economy, while another lives on the edge of survival.

A large part of the answer is freedom. With the hopeful transitions to democracy in Nigeria and Indonesia, more people won the right to choose their leaders in 1999 than in 1989, the year the Berlin Wall fell. Yet even countries making all the right choices must sometimes struggle to deliver for their people.

Phil Chen

government with all parties represented. Captain Cherrey, Senator Mitchell, we honor you with our gratitude, and with our determination to finish the work you helped begin.

A second question is whether our former adversaries, Russia and China, emerge in the coming century as stable, prosperous, democratic partners of the United States.

Today, we face a Russia weakened by the legacy of communism, by economic crisis, by a cruel and futile war in Chechnya. But never forget how much else has changed: 5,000 former Soviet nuclear weapons dismantled; Russian troops serving with us in the Balkans; a constitutional transfer of power from one leader to another for the first time in a 1000 years of Russian history. Russia's long journey to democracy is profoundly important. A generation from now, let it be said we did our part to help.

As for China, we must promote our interest with firmness, but not fear. China cannot buy its stability and stature at the expense of freedom. But let us not isolate China from the global forces empowering its people to seek a better life. We want to see China on the inside, playing by the rules, not on the outside denying them.

A third question for the new century is whether terrorists and hostile nations will acquire the means to undermine our defenses, and make us live in fear again.

Thanks in part to the biggest counter-terrorism operation in our history, the millennial celebrations passed without a violent attack. But this age-old threat, magnified by modern tools of destruction, remains real.

To prevent terrorists and potential adversaries from acquiring deadly weapons, we must work with Russia to keep nuclear weapons secure and continue to reduce our arsenals. We must restrain nuclear and missile programs in North Korea and Iran's, and continuing to prevent Iraq from threatening its neighbors. And we must strength global standards against proliferation. That is why I am committed to working with the Senate on a bipartisan basis to rebuild a consensus for the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty.

We are also developing a system to defend America against missile attack from outlaw nations, while working to preserve the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty with Russia. And my balanced budget devotes \$2 billion to defend America's cyberspace against hackers, criminals and potential adversaries.

A fourth question is whether the stability of the 21st century would will be threatened by a growing gap between rich and poor. We just cannot accept a future in which part of humanity lives on the cutting edge of a new economy, while another lives on the edge of survival.

A large part of the answer is freedom. With the hopeful transitions to democracy in Nigeria and Indonesia, more people won the right to choose their leaders in 1999 than in 1989, the year the Berlin Wall fell. Yet even countries making all the right choices must sometimes struggle to deliver for their people.

*on
Bill / Chris*

We must stand by democracies like Columbia fighting for their lives – and for our lives – against narcotics traffickers. I have proposed a two-year, \$1.6 billion package to help Colombia and I count on your support.

We must stand by impoverished nations held back by debt and disease. My budget calls for a new \$150 million investment in the global fight against AIDS and other infectious killers. And I will call on our partners in the G-7 and around the world to join us in a Millennium initiative to speed the delivery and development of vaccines to countries that might otherwise never be able to afford them. Today, I am proposing a tax credit that will say to private industry – if you develop vaccines for diseases like malaria, AIDS and TB, we will help pay for them, and we will lift millions of lives together.

The final questions are the most important of all: Will America continue to lead? How do we see ourselves and our role for the next century?

In the 20th century, America was thrust into global leadership by circumstance. Now we have to choose whether to shape the world. But it's really no choice at all, not if we want our children to know peace and prosperity and the promise of a better day. We could choose to see our role as a burden. I choose to see it as a blessing, a privilege, a responsibility.

That's why we have reversed the decline in defense spending that began in 1985. We must continue to work together to keep our military the best trained, best equipped in the world. My budget invests in readiness and in 21st century weapons. And it raises salaries for our men and women in uniform. *With - Colum - T.*

We must also continue to fund the 1 percent of our budget that supports our international engagement and keeps our soldiers out of war. Last year, you worked with me to do that and to resume paying our UN dues and arrears. Let's do it again this year. And let's remember that building the right kind of global community is vital for a strong, secure American community . . .

RESPONSIBILITY AND CRIME

Here is another heartening statistic. The overall crime rate in America has dropped every year for the past seven years -- the longest continuous decline in crime ever recorded. It happened because we took more responsibility for helping America fight crime, from passing the Brady bill to funding 100,000 new community police officers. Last fall, Congress agreed to support my plan to hire up to 50,000 more police officers, with special help for high-crime neighborhoods. Congress must continue that support this year.

But while we are grateful that America is much safer, no one believes America is safe enough. We have the opportunity and responsibility to make America the safest big country in the world.

We must begin by doing more to keep guns out of the hands of criminals and juveniles.

Last year, Congress listened to the gun lobby, rather than the American people, and gave up a chance to require Brady background checks at gun shows and child safety locks for all new

*Sen. Gore
House - 1997*

Anna Lipp

We must stand by democracies like Columbia fighting for their lives – and for our lives – against narcotics traffickers. I have proposed a two-year, \$1.6 billion package to help Colombia and I count on your support.

We must stand by impoverished nations held back by debt and disease. My budget calls for a new \$150 million investment in the global fight against AIDS and other infectious killers. And I will call on our partners in the G-7 and around the world to join us in a Millennium initiative to speed the delivery and development of vaccines to countries that might otherwise never be able to afford them. Today, I am proposing a tax credit that will say to private industry – if you develop vaccines for diseases like malaria, AIDS and TB, we will help pay for them, and we will lift millions of lives together.

The final questions are the most important of all: Will America continue to lead? How do we see ourselves and our role for the next century?

In the 20th century, America was thrust into global leadership by circumstance. Now we have to choose whether to shape the world. But it's really no choice at all, not if we want our children to know peace and prosperity and the promise of a better day. We could choose to see our role as a burden. I choose to see it as a blessing, a privilege, a responsibility.

That's why we have reversed the decline in defense spending that began in 1985. We must continue to work together to keep our military the best trained, best equipped in the world. My budget invests in readiness and in 21st century weapons. And it raises salaries for our men and women in uniform. *Which - Column - T.*

We must also continue to fund the 1 percent of our budget that supports our international engagement and keeps our soldiers out of war. Last year, you worked with me to do that and to resume paying our UN dues and arrears. Let's do it again this year. And let's remember that building the right kind of global community is vital for a strong, secure American community . . .

RESPONSIBILITY AND CRIME

Here is another heartening statistic. The overall crime rate in America has dropped every year for the past seven years -- the longest continuous decline in crime ever recorded. It happened because we took more responsibility for helping America fight crime, from passing the Brady bill to funding 100,000 new community police officers. Last fall, Congress agreed to support my plan to hire up to 50,000 more police officers, with special help for high-crime neighborhoods. Congress must continue that support this year.

But while we are grateful that America is much safer, no one believes America is safe enough. We have the opportunity and responsibility to make America the safest big country in the world.

We must begin by doing more to keep guns out of the hands of criminals and juveniles. Last year, Congress listened to the gun lobby, rather than the American people, and gave up a chance to require Brady background checks at gun shows and child safety locks for all new

*Sen. Gore
House Committee -*

Anna Chyn

handguns. Passing this common-sense gun safety legislation should be the very next action of this Congress.

But we can and must do more. States require hunters and automobile drivers to have licenses. To reduce firearms accidents and keep guns out of the wrong hands, tonight I propose that states have licenses for gun purchasers as well. *ungr*

To those who say that instead of strengthening gun laws, we should better enforce gun laws now on the books. I say, we already are. Federal gun crime prosecutions are higher today than in 1992, and are up 25 percent since 1998. But again, we should do more. We must hire more federal and local gun prosecutors, and more ATF agents to crack down on illegal gun traffickers and bad-apple dealers who supply guns to criminals and juveniles. We must supply law enforcement with the tools to trace the origin of every gun used in a crime in America. And we must create a national ballistics network capable of tracing almost any bullet left at a crime scene anywhere in America to the gun of the criminal who fired it.

Listen to this: the accidental gun death rate of children under 15 is nine times higher in the U.S. than in 25 other industrialized nations combined. Technologies now exist that could lead to guns that can only be fired by the adults who own them. It's time to help the gun industry accelerate development of these smart guns. It's time for the gun industry to take responsibility too, and reform the way it does business -- and help bring down gun violence in America. *gun*

Another vital measure we can take to reduce the crime rate is to provide more supervision, and demand more responsibility, from the hundreds of thousands of offenders who leave our prisons every year. We know that those on parole or probation who use drugs are [tk]-times more likely than others to commit another crime, but half as likely to do so if they get drug treatment. We must provide them that drug treatment, along with drug testing and a simple bargain: stay clean and you stay free; do drugs and you do more time.

The tragic school shootings in Littleton and elsewhere have been a terrible reminder of how vulnerable our children are to violence—and how much more we must do, at all levels of society, to protect them. Last year, I launched a national grassroots campaign to bring experts and local communities together to identify the most effective responses to youth violence. We also began funding efforts by local communities to develop comprehensive solutions to school violence, and this year we must increase our support of this vital endeavor.

Every parent I know worries about the amount of violence in the media. I believe the entertainment industry should respond to parents concerns. I give the industry credit for accepting my challenge to put voluntary ratings not just on movies but on TV programming and video and Internet games. This year, we must go farther. Let's give parents what they most need: one rating system for all their children's entertainment—a system that is easy to understand and enforce. Tonight, I want to honor the person who has championed this idea, and been a champion of children and families as long as I have known her, your First Lady and my wife: Hillary Rodham Clinton.

handguns. Passing this common-sense gun safety legislation should be the very next action of this Congress.

But we can and must do more. States require hunters and automobile drivers to have licenses. To reduce firearms accidents and keep guns out of the wrong hands, tonight I propose that states have licenses for gun purchasers as well. *WJC*

To those who say that instead of strengthening gun laws, we should better enforce gun laws now on the books. I say, we already are. Federal gun crime prosecutions are higher today than in 1992, and are up 25 percent since 1998. But again, we should do more. We must hire more federal and local gun prosecutors, and more ATF agents to crack down on illegal gun traffickers and bad-apple dealers who supply guns to criminals and juveniles. We must supply law enforcement with the tools to trace the origin of every gun used in a crime in America. And we must create a national ballistics network capable of tracing almost any bullet left at a crime scene anywhere in America to the gun of the criminal who fired it.

Listen to this: the accidental gun death rate of children under 15 is nine times higher in the U.S. than in 25 other industrialized nations combined. Technologies now exist that could lead to guns that can only be fired by the adults who own them. It's time to help the gun industry accelerate development of these smart guns. It's time for the gun industry to take responsibility too, and reform the way it does business -- and help bring down gun violence in America. *Proper try to get gun guy*

Another vital measure we can take to reduce the crime rate is to provide more supervision, and demand more responsibility, from the hundreds of thousands of offenders who leave our prisons every year. We know that those on parole or probation who use drugs are [tk]-times more likely than others to commit another crime, but half as likely to do so if they get drug treatment. We must provide them that drug treatment, along with drug testing and a simple bargain: stay clean and you stay free; do drugs and you do more time.

The tragic school shootings in Littleton and elsewhere have been a terrible reminder of how vulnerable our children are to violence—and how much more we must do, at all levels of society, to protect them. Last year, I launched a national grassroots campaign to bring experts and local communities together to identify the most effective responses to youth violence. We also began funding efforts by local communities to develop comprehensive solutions to school violence, and this year we must increase our support of this vital endeavor.

Every parent I know worries about the amount of violence in the media. I believe the entertainment industry should respond to parents concerns. I give the industry credit for accepting my challenge to put voluntary ratings not just on movies but on TV programming and video and Internet games. This year, we must go farther. Let's give parents what they most need: one rating system for all their children's entertainment—a system that is easy to understand and enforce. Tonight, I want to honor the person who has championed this idea, and been a champion of children and families as long as I have known her, your First Lady and my wife: Hillary Rodham Clinton.

At its best, popular culture can uplift and educate us even as it entertains us. Joining us tonight is someone whose half-century of work has appealed to the very best in our children – indeed, in all of us. We already miss reading “Peanuts” each day, but Charlie Brown, Lucy, and Snoopy will never be far from our hearts. We thank you, Charles Schulz, for your creations, and for being here with us.

RESPONSIBILITY, OPPORTUNITY, AND THE ENVIRONMENT

We have an abiding responsibility to be wise stewards of our air, water, and land. And because of new technologies, we also have the opportunity to do so in ways that enhance economic growth.

I am grateful for the many opportunities Vice President Gore and I have had to honor this commitment to future generations – and to finally put to rest the long-outdated notion that a strong economy and a healthy environment are incompatible goals. For as our economy has grown ever stronger, our environment has grown ever healthier. We have rid countless neighborhoods of toxic waste; ensured cleaner drinking water for millions of families; taken unprecedented action to improve the air we breathe.

Get-Lake
author

Two weeks ago, I visited the north rim of the Grand Canyon and created three new National Monuments – adding to the tens of millions of acres of forests and deserts and wilderness we are preserving for all Americans, for all time. In the past three months alone, we have acted to preserve pristine backcountry lands in our National Forests and created three new National Monuments – adding to the tens of millions of acres we have protected for all Americans, for all time. Not since the days of Theodore Roosevelt has the nation come together to save so much precious land in the continental United States.

Boyer

But our population and our cities are growing, and our commitment to conservation must keep growing as well. So tonight, as part of my Lands Legacy Initiative, I propose creating, for the first time, a permanent conservation endowment to save wildlands, protect coastlines, restore wildlife, and preserve small but sacred green spaces. This endowment would provide nearly \$1.5 billion each year – by far the largest, most enduring investment in land preservation ever proposed.

As we rise to protect our land, we must also help other nations that are struggling to protect theirs. The rainforests are the lungs of our planet – and yet they are disappearing at the rate of more than 50 acres a minute. Tonight, I propose a new plan to help developing countries from the Amazon to the Congo Basin strengthen their economies by preserving, rather than destroying, their irreplaceable forests.

The greatest environmental challenge of the new century is global warming. Scientists tell us that the 1990s were the hottest decade of the entire millennium – and that if we fail to heed the writing on the wall, our seas will rise and natural disasters will become more frequent with each passing year. America must act. America must lead.

At its best, popular culture can uplift and educate us even as it entertains us. Joining us tonight is someone whose half-century of work has appealed to the very best in our children – indeed, in all of us. We already miss reading “Peanuts” each day, but Charlie Brown, Lucy, and Snoopy will never be far from our hearts. We thank you, Charles Schulz, for your creations, and for being here with us.

RESPONSIBILITY, OPPORTUNITY, AND THE ENVIRONMENT

We have an abiding responsibility to be wise stewards of our air, water, and land. And because of new technologies, we also have the opportunity to do so in ways that enhance economic growth.

I am grateful for the many opportunities Vice President Gore and I have had to honor this commitment to future generations – and to finally put to rest the long-outdated notion that a strong economy and a healthy environment are incompatible goals. For as our economy has grown ever stronger, our environment has grown ever healthier. We have rid countless neighborhoods of toxic waste; ensured cleaner drinking water for millions of families; taken unprecedented action to improve the air we breathe.

For later
author

Two weeks ago, I visited the north rim of the Grand Canyon and created three new National Monuments – adding to the tens of millions of acres of forests and deserts and wilderness we are preserving for all Americans, for all time. In the past three months alone, we have acted to preserve pristine backcountry lands in our National Forests and created three new National Monuments – adding to the tens of millions of acres we have protected for all Americans, for all time. Not since the days of Theodore Roosevelt has the nation come together to save so much precious land in the continental United States.

Bob

But our population and our cities are growing, and our commitment to conservation must keep growing as well. So tonight, as part of my Lands Legacy Initiative, I propose creating, for the first time, a permanent conservation endowment to save wildlands, protect coastlines, restore wildlife, and preserve small but sacred green spaces. This endowment would provide nearly \$1.5 billion each year – by far the largest, most enduring investment in land preservation ever proposed.

As we rise to protect our land, we must also help other nations that are struggling to protect theirs. The rainforests are the lungs of our planet – and yet they are disappearing at the rate of more than 50 acres a minute. Tonight, I propose a new plan to help developing countries from the Amazon to the Congo Basin strengthen their economies by preserving, rather than destroying, their irreplaceable forests.

The greatest environmental challenge of the new century is global warming. Scientists tell us that the 1990s were the hottest decade of the entire millennium – and that if we fail to heed the writing on the wall, our seas will rise and natural disasters will become more frequent with each passing year. America must act. America must lead.

Tonight, I announce three new efforts to do just that. First, I propose a [\$100 million] initiative to help developing countries adopt clean-energy technologies and avoid the costly trade-offs that we made in the past. With these new technologies, they can expand their economies, improve the lives of their people, and protect the environment at the same time. Second, to strengthen efforts at home, I propose closing the loophole that allows old power plants to foul the air our children breathe and to continue spewing more greenhouse gases than any other source. Third, I call on the auto industry to help move the next generation of vehicles – cars that get 70 or more miles to the gallon – from the laboratory to the showroom floor.

technology
business?

We must put 21st century technology to work in building a 21st century economy in harmony with the environment. We must make sure this country of ours lasts through the ages.

THE OPPORTUNITY AND RESPONSIBILITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

As we enter this new era, it is already clear: technology is making it a millennium of miracles. They promise dramatic improvements in health, in our economy and in our quality of life.

space

Biotechnology -- and our growing understanding of human genetics and physiology -- promises new treatments for disabilities and real cures for dread diseases. We are now on the brink of sequencing the human genome -- the very code of life -- which could bring cures for cancer, Alzheimer's, and AIDS. The new science of nanotechnology that allows us to manipulate molecules -- even atoms -- could help us detect tumors as small as a single cell, or develop molecular computers that can store on a cube of sugar the entire contents of the Library of Congress.

pollution

With longer, healthier, better lives, we are redefining what it means to be old. Consider this: if we delay the onset of Alzheimer's by just five years, right now we could empty half the nursing home beds in America. If we could delay the onset of adult diabetes, we could save \$30 billion in health care costs.

In the future we will have new materials as strong as steel but ten times lighter. Ultra-clean fuel cells for cars whose only byproduct is water clean enough to drink. And computers that can translate spoken English into foreign languages and vice versa as fast as you can speak.

These and other technologies could change the way we work and live as surely as the Internet does today. Fully one-third of our recent growth is due to information technology. And the high-tech jobs it is creating are high-wage jobs -- paying nearly 80 percent more than the typical private-sector job.

For all these reasons, my budget will include a \$3 billion increase in the Twenty-First Century Research Fund. These investments will increase support for biomedical research, nanotechnology, information technology, clean energy and university-based research. This is more than an investment in research and development -- it is an investment in America's future. And we cannot move forward without it.

work

Tonight, I announce three new efforts to do just that. First, I propose a [\$100 million] initiative to help developing countries adopt clean-energy technologies and avoid the costly trade-offs that we made in the past. With these new technologies, they can expand their economies, improve the lives of their people, and protect the environment at the same time. Second, to strengthen efforts at home, I propose closing the loophole that allows old power plants to foul the air our children breathe and to continue spewing more greenhouse gases than any other source. Third, I call on the auto industry to help move the next generation of vehicles – cars that get 70 or more miles to the gallon – from the laboratory to the showroom floor.

delaying
business?

We must put 21st century technology to work in building a 21st century economy in harmony with the environment. We must make sure this country of ours lasts through the ages.

THE OPPORTUNITY AND RESPONSIBILITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

As we enter this new era, it is already clear: technology is making it a millennium of miracles. They promise dramatic improvements in health, in our economy and in our quality of life.

space

Biotechnology -- and our growing understanding of human genetics and physiology -- promises new treatments for disabilities and real cures for dread diseases. We are now on the brink of sequencing the human genome -- the very code of life -- which could bring cures for cancer, Alzheimer's, and AIDS. The new science of nanotechnology that allows us to manipulate molecules -- even atoms -- could help us detect tumors as small as a single cell, or develop molecular computers that can store on a cube of sugar the entire contents of the Library of Congress.

Antivirus

With longer, healthier, better lives, we are redefining what it means to be old. Consider this: if we delay the onset of Alzheimer's by just five years, right now we could empty half the nursing home beds in America. If we could delay the onset of adult diabetes, we could save \$30 billion in health care costs.

In the future we will have new materials as strong as steel but ten times lighter. Ultra-clean fuel cells for cars whose only byproduct is water clean enough to drink. And computers that can translate spoken English into foreign languages and vice versa as fast as you can speak.

These and other technologies could change the way we work and live as surely as the Internet does today. Fully one-third of our recent growth is due to information technology. And the high-tech jobs it is creating are high-wage jobs -- paying nearly 80 percent more than the typical private-sector job.

For all these reasons, my budget will include a \$3 billion increase in the Twenty-First Century Research Fund. These investments will increase support for biomedical research, nanotechnology, information technology, clean energy and university-based research. This is more than an investment in research and development -- it is an investment in America's future. And we cannot move forward without it.

Wink

But it is up to all of us to ensure that this new age of science and technology is also a new age of enlightenment. The advances we seek must be guided by the values we hold dear.

First and foremost, we must ensure that our privacy -- financial and medical -- is protected. Last year, our administration proposed rules to protect every citizen's most sensitive information, his or her medical records. This year, we will finalize those rules. We have also taken steps to protect our people's financial records. But these are only the first steps, as I said when I signed the financial modernization bill into law. I will soon send legislation to the Congress to complete this important unfinished business.

We will also take action to prevent genetic discrimination -- so no employer ever reviews your genetic records along with your resume. We will make sure that the actions of the government itself contain strong privacy protections. And tonight, I want to issue a strong challenge to on-line companies -- to do more to protect their customers' privacy.

Second, we know that our medical professionals work wonders every day; but we also know that their first obligation is to do no harm. My budget makes the largest investment in history to eliminate medical errors and enhance patient safety. Because no American should ever fear that their health care will jeopardize their health.

Nearly forty years ago, as America began its exploration of space, President Kennedy said, "We set sail on this new sea because there is knowledge to be gained ... for the progress of all people. Whether it will become a force for good or ill depends on man." If we take the right steps together, we can be confident that our progress will be a force for good.

COMMUNITY

In 18TK, the great foreign chronicler of America Alexis de Toqueville observed that in America, helping others is not just charity or compassion, it is a sign of good citizenship. De Toqueville was among the first to notice something that is still true of America today: much of what is noblest in our public life occurs outside of government--in the churches, charities, and volunteer groups, to which average citizens contribute money, and their time. We have long relied on this community of active citizenship to meet some of our toughest social challenges. In the 21st Century, we must strengthen and expand this community as never before.

To tap the full potential of philanthropic institutions, we must broaden the base of those who give. Tonight, I propose new tax incentives to do just that. Lower and middle income Americans who give deserve what wealthier Americans can get: a tax deduction for contributions to charity.

We can also do more to bring communities of faith into the circle of service. Faith-based organizations work tirelessly everyday to help Americans fight drug and alcohol abuse and to provide opportunities for young people to get back on the right track or to stay out of trouble in the first place. We can respect the line between church and state and still do more to support the good works of these groups.

But it is up to all of us to ensure that this new age of science and technology is also a new age of enlightenment. The advances we seek must be guided by the values we hold dear.

First and foremost, we must ensure that our privacy -- financial and medical -- is protected. Last year, our administration proposed rules to protect every citizen's most sensitive information, his or her medical records. This year, we will finalize those rules. We have also taken steps to protect our people's financial records. But these are only the first steps, as I said when I signed the financial modernization bill into law. I will soon send legislation to the Congress to complete this important unfinished business.

We will also take action to prevent genetic discrimination -- so no employer ever reviews your genetic records along with your resume. We will make sure that the actions of the government itself contain strong privacy protections. And tonight, I want to issue a strong challenge to on-line companies -- to do more to protect their customers' privacy.

Second, we know that our medical professionals work wonders every day; but we also know that their first obligation is to do no harm. My budget makes the largest investment in history to eliminate medical errors and enhance patient safety. Because no American should ever fear that their health care will jeopardize their health.

Nearly forty years ago, as America began its exploration of space, President Kennedy said, "We set sail on this new sea because there is knowledge to be gained ... for the progress of all people. Whether it will become a force for good or ill depends on man." If we take the right steps together, we can be confident that our progress will be a force for good.

COMMUNITY

In 18TK, the great foreign chronicler of America Alexis de Toqueville observed that in America, helping others is not just charity or compassion, it is a sign of good citizenship. De Toqueville was among the first to notice something that is still true of America today: much of what is noblest in our public life occurs outside of government--in the churches, charities, and volunteer groups, to which average citizens contribute money, and their time. We have long relied on this community of active citizenship to meet some of our toughest social challenges. In the 21st Century, we must strengthen and expand this community as never before.

To tap the full potential of philanthropic institutions, we must broaden the base of those who give. Tonight, I propose new tax incentives to do just that. Lower and middle income Americans who give deserve what wealthier Americans can get: a tax deduction for contributions to charity.

We can also do more to bring communities of faith into the circle of service. Faith-based organizations work tirelessly everyday to help Americans fight drug and alcohol abuse and to provide opportunities for young people to get back on the right track or to stay out of trouble in the first place. We can respect the line between church and state and still do more to support the good works of these groups.

We can do even more to elevate the cause of citizen service. When I first ran for this office, I had faith that if we gave our young people the opportunity to serve their communities, they would answer the call. Together, we created AmeriCorps in 1994, and today, over 150,000 AmeriCorps members have served in countless ways, from teaching children to helping the homeless—often working with non-profit organizations.

Today, AmeriCorps graduates, like veterans of our military and the Peace Corps, are an enormous pool of know-how and can-do. We need to tap that resource. Tonight, I propose the creation of the Americorps Reserves to activate former AmeriCorps members in times of crisis including natural disasters.

The AmeriCorps oath concludes with the words: I will get things done. Let us do the same. Let us build on the success of AmeriCorps, fund it fully, and keep it strong for all time.

Of course, the most fundamental responsibility of citizenship begins in the voting booth. More than half of our children live in households where neither parent votes. Too many simply think politics doesn't matter. But it does. So I say to all Americans: whatever your party, whatever your ideology, whatever you do, make your voice heard. Vote.

And this is the year of the census, so you have a unique opportunity to not only stand up and be counted, but to make your voice count.

One of the wonders of our time is the way technology is expanding the community of citizenship, creating new ways for individuals to get involved in the democratic process. A few months ago, I held the first Presidential on-line town meeting. Starting next month, I will launch a series of what I call "Webside Chats"—on-line discussions focused on issues and ideas. We can give more Americans the opportunity to share their views and be a part of our national community.

From the beginning, that community has been enriched by new immigrants. Like those before them, today's new immigrants are renewing the spirit of America. And like those before them, they know they must learn English to reach their full potential.

Demand for English language classes is so high that some states have even resorted to a lottery system to pick students. We must be clear: learning English should be an opportunity available to all -- not a raffle. My budget boosts support for English as a second language and links classes with civics education. So as new immigrants learn English, they can also become fluent in the rights and responsibilities of American life.

We are more diverse than ever before. The face of America is changing. We all know that. The question ahead is not: how will we look? But, what will we be? What will we choose as a community to do with our diversity?

This fall, as a part of our ongoing millennium celebrations, the First Lady and I hosted a discussion with Eric Lander, one of America's leading geneticists, who is with us here tonight. Dr. Lander explained that all human beings genetically are 99.9 percent the same. Science seems

We can do even more to elevate the cause of citizen service. When I first ran for this office, I had faith that if we gave our young people the opportunity to serve their communities, they would answer the call. Together, we created AmeriCorps in 1994, and today, over 150,000 AmeriCorps members have served in countless ways, from teaching children to helping the homeless—often working with non-profit organizations.

Today, AmeriCorps graduates, like veterans of our military and the Peace Corps, are an enormous pool of know-how and can-do. We need to tap that resource. Tonight, I propose the creation of the Americorps Reserves to activate former AmeriCorps members in times of crisis including natural disasters.

The AmeriCorps oath concludes with the words: I will get things done. Let us do the same. Let us build on the success of AmeriCorps, fund it fully, and keep it strong for all time.

Of course, the most fundamental responsibility of citizenship begins in the voting booth. More than half of our children live in households where neither parent votes. Too many simply think politics doesn't matter. But it does. So I say to all Americans: whatever your party, whatever your ideology, whatever you do, make your voice heard. Vote.

And this is the year of the census, so you have a unique opportunity to not only stand up and be counted, but to make your voice count.

One of the wonders of our time is the way technology is expanding the community of citizenship, creating new ways for individuals to get involved in the democratic process. A few months ago, I held the first Presidential on-line town meeting. Starting next month, I will launch a series of what I call "Webside Chats"—on-line discussions focused on issues and ideas. We can give more Americans the opportunity to share their views and be a part of our national community.

From the beginning, that community has been enriched by new immigrants. Like those before them, today's new immigrants are renewing the spirit of America. And like those before them, they know they must learn English to reach their full potential.

Demand for English language classes is so high that some states have even resorted to a lottery system to pick students. We must be clear: learning English should be an opportunity available to all -- not a raffle. My budget boosts support for English as a second language and links classes with civics education. So as new immigrants learn English, they can also become fluent in the rights and responsibilities of American life.

We are more diverse than ever before. The face of America is changing. We all know that. The question ahead is not: how will we look? But, what will we be? What will we choose as a community to do with our diversity?

This fall, as a part of our ongoing millennium celebrations, the First Lady and I hosted a discussion with Eric Lander, one of America's leading geneticists, who is with us here tonight. Dr. Lander explained that all human beings genetically are 99.9 percent the same. Science seems

to affirm what faith has always taught us: that the differences between us are nothing compared to the common humanity that unites us all.

We are more united than ever, but we have work to do. We cannot ignore the hatred that spawned such recent incidents as the murder of young Matthew Shepard or the dragging death of James Byrd in Texas. Rather than give into hate, the Byrd family transformed their hate to a new foundation for racial reconciliation. We're honored to have [TK Byrd] with us tonight.

Let me say again, discrimination and violence against anyone because of race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, ancestry or disability is wrong. We must also make it illegal. I ask the Congress once more to pass, without further delay, the Hate Crimes Prevention Act and the Employment Non-Discrimination Act.

And finally, to make the most of our economic and social progress we have made together, we must continue our journey to building One America in the 21st century. That means rededicating ourselves to the ideals of justice and opportunity for all that are at the heart of our democracy. No American should be subjected to discrimination in housing, education, federal contracting or any other aspect of American life. My budget increases funding substantially for civil rights enforcement at the EEOC and the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division—to make sure that protections in law are protections in fact.

Last February, I created the White House Office on One America to coordinate our efforts and help build community partnerships for racial reconciliation. We are reaching out across our nation – from lawyers to religious leaders to corporate leaders to make sure every American can help build the One America of our dreams.

We know there is only one way to achieve that kind of nation—not through machines or money or might. Above all, it must flow from the human spirit. Let us take on the unfinished work of our time. Let us do our part to lift the burden of race and make the promise of America the practice of America.

8th
My fellow Americans, this is the ~~seventh~~ time I have had the privilege of this high moment. Each time I have approached it with great hope and great expectations for our nation. But there is no escaping the fact that tonight is different. For tonight, we stand on the mountaintop of a new millennium. Behind us we see the great expanse of American achievement, and before us, ~~vast~~ ^{new} frontiers of possibility yet to be explored.

The children of the future will see: generations of Americans earned this moment – earned this opportunity – and we have an obligation to make the most of it. Not even the most far-sighted of our forebears could have predicted that American ingenuity and spirit would lead the world to these unprecedented heights of prosperity and peace. And we can only imagine the heights to which we will climb in this new century.

And so, tonight, whether you are settling in the comfort of today's growing affluence or climbing out of the shadows of yesterday's despair, look up and see that the sun is rising on a new century of hope and possibility in America. Look up and take your place in the procession

to affirm what faith has always taught us: that the differences between us are nothing compared to the common humanity that unites us all.

We are more united than ever, but we have work to do. We cannot ignore the hatred that spawned such recent incidents as the murder of young Matthew Shepard or the dragging death of James Byrd in Texas. Rather than give into hate, the Byrd family transformed their hate to a new foundation for racial reconciliation. We're honored to have [TK Byrd] with us tonight.

Let me say again, discrimination and violence against anyone because of race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, ancestry or disability is wrong. We must also make it illegal. I ask the Congress once more to pass, without further delay, the Hate Crimes Prevention Act and the Employment Non-Discrimination Act.

And finally, to make the most of our economic and social progress we have made together, we must continue our journey to building One America in the 21st century. That means rededicating ourselves to the ideals of justice and opportunity for all that are at the heart of our democracy. No American should be subjected to discrimination in housing, education, federal contracting or any other aspect of American life. My budget increases funding substantially for civil rights enforcement at the EEOC and the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division—to make sure that protections in law are protections in fact.

Last February, I created the White House Office on One America to coordinate our efforts and help build community partnerships for racial reconciliation. We are reaching out across our nation – from lawyers to religious leaders to corporate leaders to make sure every American can help build the One America of our dreams.

We know there is only one way to achieve that kind of nation—not through machines or money or might. Above all, it must flow from the human spirit. Let us take on the unfinished work of our time. Let us do our part to lift the burden of race and make the promise of America the practice of America.

My fellow Americans, this is the ^{8th} ~~seventh~~ time I have had the privilege of this high moment. Each time I have approached it with great hope and great expectations for our nation. But there is no escaping the fact that tonight is different. For tonight, we stand on the mountaintop of a new millennium. Behind us we see the great expanse of American achievement, and before us, ^{new} ~~vast~~ frontiers of possibility yet to be explored.

The children of the future will see: generations of Americans earned this moment – earned this opportunity – and we have an obligation to make the most of it. Not even the most far-sighted of our forebears could have predicted that American ingenuity and spirit would lead the world to these unprecedented heights of prosperity and peace. And we can only imagine the heights to which we will climb in this new century.

And so, tonight, whether you are settling in the comfort of today's growing affluence or climbing out of the shadows of yesterday's despair, look up and see that the sun is rising on a new century of hope and possibility in America. Look up and take your place in the procession

of Americans, great and small, whose gifts to the past have brought us to this moment of great promise. Now it is your time. You are our gifts to the future. Together, we can make the next 100 years, America's greatest century.

Thank you, God bless you, and God bless America.

of Americans, great and small, whose gifts to the past have brought us to this moment of great promise. Now it is your time. You are our gifts to the future. Together, we can make the next 100 years, America's greatest century.

Thank you, God bless you, and God bless America.

PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON
STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS
UNITED STATES CAPITOL
WASHINGTON, DC
January 27, 2000

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Vice President, Members of Congress, honored guests, my fellow Americans: Tonight I have the honor of delivering the first State of the Union Address of a new century and a new millennium.

We are fortunate to be alive at this moment in history. Never before has our nation enjoyed, at once, so much prosperity, social progress, and self-confidence with so little internal crisis or so few external threats. Never have our values – of freedom and democracy – been more ascendant around the world. Never have we had such a blessed opportunity – and, therefore, such a profound obligation – to build the more perfect union of our founders' dreams.

We end the 20th Century, and begin the 21st, at a high point in our history. There is no better moment to reflect on our hopes and dreams for our children. No better moment to make big plans for our nation. No better moment than today.

Today we are experiencing a remarkable American renaissance. Twenty million new jobs. The fastest economic growth in more than 30 years; the lowest unemployment rate in 30 years; the lowest poverty rate in 20 years; the first back-to-back budget surpluses in 42 years; the lowest African-American and Hispanic unemployment rate ever; the highest home ownership ever. And next month, America will achieve the longest economic expansion in our nation's history.

My fellow Americans, I stand before you tonight to report that the state of our union is strong – the strongest it has ever been.

We are experiencing not only a renaissance of the American economy, but something even more important: a renewal of the American spirit. Across our land we see a revival of responsibility. . . a renewal of the bonds of community. Who would have thought that in just seven years we could cut the welfare rolls in half, and moved millions from welfare to work? Who would have thought that we could cut crime by one quarter, to its lowest level in more than 30 years? Who would have thought that we could reverse virtually every terrible social trend of the last few decades, from teen pregnancy going down, to adoptions going up? Our social fabric, once frayed, is on the mend.

Bridge
Tonight it is clear: Our nation is prepared for the new century.

As always,
~~It is also clear that~~ the American people – by the hard work they do every day – deserve *much of* the credit, ~~and our thanks~~. My gratitude also goes to the many of you, here in this chamber, who

have worked with us to make the tough decisions, to put progress above partisanship for the sake of our people. I thank you.

Eight years ago, it was not clear to most Americans that there would be much to celebrate in the year 2000. Our nation was gripped by economic distress, social decline, political ~~quibbles~~ *quibbles* stalemate, and discredited government. In 1992, at a time of rising crime, mounting deficits, and high unemployment, a best-selling book asked: "What went wrong? "

But in the best traditions of our nation, of the time of Lincoln and the two Roosevelts, America determined to set things right. We replaced outdated ideologies with bold, new ideas anchored in basic, enduring values: opportunity for all; ~~but also~~ *but also* responsibility from all; ~~that's~~ *that's* how you build a community of all ~~Americans~~ *Americans*.

That's how we turned decades of record deficits into back-to-back record surpluses – not by denigrating government but by reinventing it, and acting with fiscal discipline. That's how we have cut crime – not by debating between prevention and punishment but by doing both, and doing them better – passing the Brady Law that has kept guns out of the hands of half a million criminals, and funding 100,000 community police to make our neighborhoods safer. That's how we have protected our environment – not ~~with old-style regulations~~ *by regulating a kind of return to nature, growth, environmental progress but by achieving better,* but with new approaches and technologies.

That's how we ended welfare as we knew it – by ending dependency and empowering millions to go to work. That's how we have helped parents to succeed at work and at home – by offering new approaches, like Family and Medical Leave, which 20 million working Americans have used to care for sick loved ones. That's how we have opened the doors of college to all – with HOPE scholarship tax cuts, more Pell Grants, and more affordable college loans. That's how we have engaged 150,000 more young Americans in citizen service – building One America, one community at a time, through AmeriCorps. And that's how we have seized the opportunities of a global era – by expanding trade with more than 270 new agreements and ~~extending our values around the world~~ *by Kennedy vs Russia, Vietnam, the Berlin Wall, and the end of the Cold War.*

In 1992, we had a roadmap. In the year 2000, we have results. We have built our bridge to the 21st Century. Now, let us lift our sights and take what Theodore Roosevelt called "the long look ahead."

Let us look beyond this year, even beyond this decade, and ask ourselves: How will we make the most of this moment of promise? What are our biggest challenges, and how will we meet them?

Tonight, let us pledge:

At a time of unprecedented economic growth, let's bring prosperity ~~into~~ *to* every community in America.

At a time of record surpluses, let's keep going with the same spirit that has made us the most powerful nation in the world.

At a time when our people are living longer than ever, let's ensure that they are also living better – and healthier.

At a time when ^{medicine and} technology ^{are} transforming our world, let's ^{us} realize ^{their} full promise and make sure our values guide our progress.

At a time when we have passed our government's clean energy, let's prove we can reverse

At a time of steadily falling crime, let's make America the safest big nation on Earth.

At a time when more families are working families, let's ensure that parents have the tools to succeed at work and at the most important work of all – raising children.

At a time when knowledge is the key to the new economy, let's make sure every child begins school ready to learn and graduates ready to succeed.

At a time when America is growing more diverse than ever, let's finally become what we've always known we can be: one nation, under God, indivisible.

writing of a great nation
These are big goals. We may not reach them this year. But I believe we will reach them. And we will get there the same way we got here: not in one single leap, but step by step – always building on our progress, moving forward, gaining ground.

Actually, I do like my first question
Of course, you can't gain ground if you're standing still. And for too long, this Congress has been standing still on some of our most pressing national priorities. Let's get moving. This year, let's strengthen Social Security. Let's modernize Medicare with a voluntary prescription-drug benefit. Let's pass a real patients' bill of rights. Let's pass common-sense gun-safety legislation. Let's pass meaningful hate-crimes legislation. Let's raise the minimum wage.

But that will only be the beginning of our journey.

Tonight, I will propose the first steps into the bold new frontier of the 21st century. I will begin with a New Opportunity Agenda for this new era—an agenda rooted in responsibility, and designed to create a stronger and more inclusive community. At its core is a simple, powerful, fundamental principle: "Opportunity for all."

This new agenda updates an old American value for the Information Age. Two centuries ago, at our nation's founding, opportunity meant, most of all, the freedom to carve a farm and an existence out of the forest frontier. Fifty years ago, opportunity meant a high school education – or even the G.I. Bill – and a job for life. Today, opportunity means something different. It means having a computer and knowing how to use it. It means changing careers and a lifetime of learning. It means mastering the tools and technologies of the new economy, in which ideas and information are the keys to success.

Our first steps into the 21st Century must be the right steps. They must be guided, first and foremost, by our faith that all children can learn and all adults can succeed.

OPPORTUNITY AND RESPONSIBILITY IN EDUCATION

For seven years we have pursued a simple strategy on education: Invest more, and demand more in return. Offer opportunity, but demand responsibility. We have helped nearly every state set higher academic standards for their schools. We are closing in on our goal of connecting every classroom and library in America to the Internet. And for two years in a row, Congress has supported our effort to hire 100,000 new, qualified teachers, to lower class sizes in the early grades. This Congress must continue that support.

With these and other efforts, our students are learning more. Scores on college entrance exams are going up, even as more students from more-diverse backgrounds are taking the test. And some of the most impressive academic gains are happening in schools in some of America's poorest neighborhoods.

Schools like Beaufort [B'YOU-fert] Elementary in South Carolina. Five years ago, Beaufort was classified as one of the state's worst-performing schools. But under a new principal, Ruth Summerlin, Beaufort embraced accountability and higher academic standards, and started afterschool and summer school programs for students who were behind. Today, Beaufort's math and test scores exceed the state average, and local parents are pulling their children out of private schools and putting them in Beaufort. Ruth Summerlin is with us here tonight. *Thank you for proving what our children can do.*

I have visited schools like Beaufort all across America -- schools that have turned themselves around with the same proven formula: greater accountability, higher standards, and the conviction that all students can learn. Unfortunately, there are too many low-performing schools in this country that are not applying these lessons -- schools where, year after year, children fail to get the knowledge and skills they need to make the most of their God-given talents.

Last year, from this podium, I proposed an Education Accountability Act, to fundamentally change the way the federal government invests in our schools -- to support what we know works, and stop supporting what doesn't. This year, I challenge Congress to not only pass that measure, but to make dramatic new investments in ideas we know are working.

We know that quality afterschool and summer school programs boost academic achievement. They also keep children off the street in the hours before parents get home from work, when juvenile crime soars. Tonight, I propose that we double our investment for afterschool and summer school. If we do this, we can give every child in every failing school in America the chance to meet high standards -- and to beat them.

We know that our children who learn early learn best. And since 1993, we've put over 150,000 more children in the successful Head Start pre-school program, and improved the quality of Head Start. Tonight, I propose the largest funding increase for Head Start in history. With this increase, plus greater investment in early learning, we can take the first step toward providing universal pre-school for every four-year-old in America.

We know that if we want our children to learn, we need good teachers and principals. Tonight, I propose new efforts to help states and school districts recruit the best and brightest

people to teaching, train principals as leaders and get rid of bad ones. And we must finish the job of hiring 100,000 qualified teachers to reduce class size.

We know that antiquated classrooms get in the way of learning, and that a third of all schools in America are in serious disrepair – with leaky roofs and antiquated electrical wiring. Tonight, I propose new investments to make immediate, urgent repairs to our schools. I renew my call for a tax credit to help build or modernize 6,000 schools nationwide – so we can take our children out of trailers and put them in modern classrooms. And let's make our high schools safer and better by investing in making them smaller. Let's make sure our kids go to schools where everybody knows their name.

How many
how many

We know that we must turnaround failing schools – or shut them down. Last fall, Congress passed my plan to give districts the resources to do so. This year, let's double that investment. Let's also increase our investment in charter schools, to give parents more choice. And let's give bonuses to states that succeed in making scores go up across the board.

6.92

We must also do more to help high school students prepare for, and succeed in, college. We must increase tutoring and mentoring efforts, bring advanced placement courses to schools in isolated rural areas via the Internet, and offer disadvantaged students the same test prep courses wealthier students use to boost their scores on college entrance exams. [TK: Schumer/ college tax ideas]

Need
classroom
on
Today's
Strains
[319]

REWARDING WORK AND STRENGTHENING FAMILIES

It is often said that the foundation of American life is the family. I would add "the working family," for it is through work that we support our families, and pass on our values to our children. That is why the basic goal of so much of what we have done -- from reforming welfare to raising the minimum wage -- has been to encourage and reward work; to give more opportunities for a better life to all families responsible enough to work for it.

Simply put: When you work hard and play by the rules, good things should follow. From your standard of living, to your savings, to your self-esteem.

One of the most powerful incentives to work has been the Earned Income Tax Credit, a targeted tax cut for low-income working families. The "E" in "EITC" is about earning; about working; about taking responsibility and being rewarded for it. As one of my first actions as President, I asked the Congress to dramatically expand the EITC, and we did. As a result, the EITC helped more than 4.3 million Americans in 1998 work their way into the middle class – double the number in 1993.

Tonight I propose that we expand opportunity by substantially expanding the EITC. We should reduce the marriage penalty for the EITC, making sure that this tax credit rewards marriage, and family, just as it rewards work, and expand the tax credit for families with more than two children. Our plan would provide those families up to \$1,200 more in tax relief. That's enough for the average family to pay three months' mortgage or eight months of health care

coverage. And it's an added incentive to make their way into the middle class. They're working hard for it. We should help them to reach it.

For people who play by the rules, there's something else that should be within reach: their place of work. But two-thirds of new jobs are in the suburbs, far away from many low-income families. In the past two years, I have proposed and Congress has approved 110,000 new housing vouchers – to ^{help} more Americans live where opportunities abound. This year, let's more than double that number. If we want people to go to work, they have to be able to get to work. *What can we do to help?*

Wherever they live, working parents need quality child care. Last year, we helped parents provide care for 1.25 million children. But child care should be better, safer, and more affordable. It's what our children deserve and what working parents need. My child care initiative would increase and improve care for 150,000 more children. And it's time we make the child care tax credit refundable to help families who need it most. Parents should be able to balance work and family – not have to choose between them. *Sum total*

*Orin
Bridge
Gore* Three years ago, we created a new way for hard-pressed working families to provide health care for their children: the Children's Health Insurance Program. In less than a year, enrollment CHIP has doubled, to 2 million children. But we must do more. As Vice President Gore has been saying, if states are looking to insure more children, they should go where the children are – in schools, churches, and child-care centers. And we should take the next step and enroll their parents, too. Nine million of them are eligible, but uninsured. And let's give a real, affordable option to the fastest growing group of uninsured: people between 55 and 65 who lose their coverage. We should allow them to buy into Medicare, *could give them some help to do it – \$5?* *fixed to cover 2 million?* *Answer*

[Tipper Gore, Mental Health – TK]

And let's make sure that men and women get equal pay for equal work. Today, women earn 75 cents for every dollar men earn. That's just not good enough. *what* My budget provides much needed resources to enforce equal pay laws, and to train women for high-paying, high-tech jobs. ~~And we should pass the Paycheck Fairness Act. That will go a long way toward opportunity and dignity for working women.~~ *And.*

This year, I am proposing a progressive savings initiative to help low- and moderate-income families work and save for retirement. [policy TK]

Franklin Roosevelt once said that "personal responsibility, guided by collective conscience, is the discipline of democracy." We have no greater responsibility than to love and support the children we bring into this world. Yet nearly one child in three in America today grows up in a home without a father – and these children are five times more likely to live in poverty than children with both parents at home. I know many single mothers do a magnificent job of raising their children. But their task is made infinitely harder when there is no father to contribute income and love; to share the burdens and joys of parenthood; to teach the boys to be men and the girls to expect respect from men. Four years ago, we made an historic reform of welfare that has helped millions of mothers move from dependency on a welfare check to the

dignity of a paycheck. Demanding and promoting responsible fatherhood is the critical next stage of welfare reform.

We have already begun, over the last seven years, to crack down on fathers who fail to pay child support by denying them drivers' licenses and creating a national database to track them across state lines. As a result, child support payments have doubled since 1993. The number of unwed fathers who legally acknowledge their paternity has tripled. ~~And~~ The percentage of children born into unwed homes, after skyrocketing for decades, has begun to level off, and the teenage birth rate is falling.

This is progress. But we must accelerate that progress, step by step, until the day that every father in America takes responsibility for his children. We can begin by toughening measures against fathers who owe child support, such as booting their cars. We can give fathers even more incentive to contribute by allowing more of their child support payments to go directly to their families.

And to absent parents who owe child support, we should say: we'll help you do right by your children, but you have to go to work, and pay them what you owe.

Helping absent parents and others join the culture of work is good not just for them and their families. At a time when businesses across America have labor shortages, it is also good for our economy. Four years ago, I asked corporate leaders to join with us in a partnership to provide jobs to those leaving the welfare rolls. Today, 12,000 companies have hired nearly 650,000 former welfare recipients. Yet these companies need still more new workers. And they say they are increasingly willing to hire from a growing pool of potential labor: the half-million ex-offenders who leave our prisons every year. Tonight, I propose a new initiative to train, counsel, and more carefully monitor ex-offenders so they can become responsible employees, family members, and citizens.

For our economy to continue to enjoy rapid growth without inflation, it is vital that our corporations find not just new workers to hire, but new opportunities to invest, and new markets in which to sell. I believe these new markets exist right here in America—in the inner cities, poor rural areas, and Indian reservations -- places that have not yet been blessed by our nation's prosperity. Over the last six months, I have traveled to many of these places -- joined by many of you -- to shine a spotlight on the enormous opportunities in America's new markets.

Now, more than ever, we have the means to expand the circle of opportunity wide enough to include the men and women at its margins, so that no one who's willing to work is left behind as our nation moves ahead. For business, it's the smart thing to do. And for America, it's the right thing to do. If we don't do it now, when will we ever get around to it?

I believe businesses should have the same incentives to invest in America's new markets as they have to invest in new markets abroad. In this year's budget, I call on Congress to double our New Markets Tax Credit, to spur \$12 billion in new equity capital for our untapped markets. We should also greatly increase funding to help large-scale businesses expand or relocate to our

inner cities or rural areas. And we should increase the tax incentives that promote growth in our Empowerment Zones.

Speaker Hastert, it was a powerful moment last November when you joined me and Reverend Jesse Jackson on stage at Englewood High School, in your home state of Illinois, and pledged to work with my administration on common ground for New Markets legislation. ^{So} ~~let's work together~~ to finish the job. *of New York for the country (pleading to make it)*

Last July, I became the first President to visit an Indian reservation since Franklin Roosevelt. That's far too long. In this new century, let's honor our historic responsibility to Native Americans – the first Americans. My budget increases by more than \$1 billion our investment in health care, education, law enforcement, and infrastructure. Indian Country is a new market America should not – and must not – ignore.

We must also fulfill our obligation to our farming communities, the lifeblood of our land. When I signed the farm bill in 1996, I ^{was} ~~was~~ concerned it would work well in good times but ~~not~~ ^{not} well in bad times. In recent years, our ~~family~~ ^{family} farms have endured droughts and floods and ~~financial~~ ^{financial} crises abroad. ~~Our New Markets Initiative will help them diversify their economic base. But let's also do more than mend the farm safety net – let's strengthen it.~~ *historically low prices but*

This spring, I will lead a New Markets tour to focus on another challenge: the growing “digital divide” between those who have access to the new economy and those who don't. ~~But~~ ^{The} very technology that drives our expansion also creates tools to ensure that everyone, from the city to the farm to the reservation, can join in building our nation. My budget creates 1,000 new technology centers to connect poor communities to the economic mainstream. It also helps mobilize the combined force of public, private, and nonprofit sectors to increase Internet access in low-income areas. Because you can't get in the game until you have the tools to play.

GLOBAL CHANGE AND AMERICAN LEADERSHIP

As we move to master the possibilities of the new economy at home, we must also lead in shaping a global economy that extends our prosperity – and expresses our values.

~~Our~~ International trade now accounts for one-quarter of our economy. It creates good jobs and brings us new products and technologies. We need to keep that trade growing, and make sure it grows fairly. That means enforcing our own rules to protect our workers, our industries, and our environment. It means making international trade – and the WTO – more open and responsive to concerns about dignity of work and quality of life. And it means remembering that a global economy based on rules is far preferable than one with no rules at all.

That is why China should join the WTO and live under the same trade rules we do. And when it does, America's companies and workers should gain new opportunities in every sector or China's vast market. I ask Congress to lock in this opportunity by passing Permanent Normal Trade Relations status for China. This is a good deal for America. It will level the playing field in U.S.-China trade, and it is a chance to help China along the road to change.

When we engage in the global economy, we are investing in our shared future. Growth from trade is not just vital for us, but for the 1.3 billion people around the world who still live on less than a dollar a day. To help pass opportunity on to them, we should do our part – our full part – to reduce the debts that cripple the world's poorest nations. I ask Congress to support that effort, and to finalize our initiatives to unlock new trade with Africa and the Caribbean Basin. If we stay engaged, we will be helping Americans master the new economy . . . and helping others around the world become masters of their own future.

At a moment when American power is unrivaled and the world is coming together around ideals we have lived by and died for, we have a responsibility to lead. Never forget the Americans who struggled to give us this chance. Never forget that hundreds of millions of people live in peace today because of the Americans who rest in peace in graves marked and unmarked across the world. We have come too far, sacrificed too much, to stop the world and get off now; we must continue to shape the world. So let us look beyond our borders to the big questions that will shape the 21st century world, and look within for the strength to find the answers.

A central question is whether our security will be threatened by regional conflicts, especially those rooted in ethnic and religious tensions, that pose the risk of wider war. With all its amazing advances, our modern world is still bedeviled by our oldest failing – fear of those who are different from us. In too many places, that fear is exploited by unscrupulous leaders trying to cling to power or make brutal war on their neighbors.

America cannot prevent every conflict or stop every outrage. But when our interests and our values are at stake and we can make a difference, we must be peacemakers. For history teaches that all big wars start small, and when human beings anywhere are singled out for destruction because of who they are, it is our common humanity that suffers.

We should be proud that we have helped bring the Middle East closer than ever to comprehensive peace. [Update on Israel-Syria; essential that America does its share].

We should be proud of the role America played in bring peace to Northern Ireland... in helping to end the bloodletting in East Timor...in supporting efforts to end Africa's cruel wars.

And we should be proud of the men and women of our armed forces who made it possible for a million innocent people to return home to Kosovo last year. Now, instead of struggling to defeat something evil, we can focus on building something good: a Europe undivided, democratic and at peace for the first time in history.

With us today are two Americans who've shown how both power and persuasion can serve the cause of peace. When Slobodan Milosevic unleashed ethnic cleansing in Kosovo, Captain John Cherrey was one of the brave airmen who turned the tide – and when an American plane went down, he flew into the teeth of Serbian air defenses to bring its pilot home. When the peace process in Northern Ireland was in trouble, the man who did so much to start it went back one more time to save it, and now, with George Mitchell's help, the people there have a working

government with all parties represented. Captain Cherrey, Senator Mitchell, we honor you with our gratitude, and with our determination to finish the work you helped begin.

A second question is whether our former adversaries, Russia and China, emerge in the coming century as stable, prosperous, democratic partners of the United States.

Today, we face a Russia weakened by the legacy of communism, by economic crisis, by a cruel and futile war in Chechnya. But never forget how much else has changed: 5,000 former Soviet nuclear weapons dismantled; Russian troops serving with us in the Balkans; a constitutional transfer of power from one leader to another for the first time in a 1000 years of Russian history. Russia's long journey to democracy is profoundly important. A generation from now, let it be said we did our part to help.

As for China, we must promote our interest with firmness, but not fear. China cannot buy its stability and stature at the expense of freedom. But let us not isolate China from the global forces empowering its people to seek a better life. We want to see China on the inside, playing by the rules, not on the outside denying them.

A third question for the new century is whether terrorists and hostile nations will acquire the means to undermine our defenses, and make us live in fear again.

Thanks in part to the biggest counter-terrorism operation in our history, the millennial celebrations passed without a violent attack. But this age-old threat, magnified by modern tools of destruction, remains real.

To prevent terrorists and potential adversaries from acquiring deadly weapons, we must work with Russia to keep nuclear weapons secure and continue to reduce our arsenals. We must restrain nuclear and missile programs in North Korea and Iran's, and continuing to prevent Iraq from threatening its neighbors. And we must strength global standards against proliferation. That is why I am committed to working with the Senate on a bipartisan basis to rebuild a consensus for the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty.

We are also developing a system to defend America against missile attack from outlaw nations, while working to preserve the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty with Russia. And my balanced budget devotes \$2 billion to defend America's cyberspace against hackers, criminals and potential adversaries.

A fourth question is whether the stability of the 21st century would will be threatened by a growing gap between rich and poor. We just cannot accept a future in which part of humanity lives on the cutting edge of a new economy, while another lives on the edge of survival.

A large part of the answer is freedom. With the hopeful transitions to democracy in Nigeria and Indonesia, more people won the right to choose their leaders in 1999 than in 1989, the year the Berlin Wall fell. Yet even countries making all the right choices must sometimes struggle to deliver for their people.

Bill Clinton

We must stand by democracies like Columbia fighting for their lives – and for our lives – against narcotics traffickers. I have proposed a two-year, \$1.6 billion package to help Colombia and I count on your support.

We must stand by impoverished nations held back by debt and disease. My budget calls for a new \$150 million investment in the global fight against AIDS and other infectious killers. And I will call on our partners in the G-7 and around the world to join us in a Millennium initiative to speed the delivery and development of vaccines to countries that might otherwise never be able to afford them. Today, I am proposing a tax credit that will say to private industry – if you develop vaccines for diseases like malaria, AIDS and TB, we will help pay for them, and we will lift millions of lives together.

The final questions are the most important of all: Will America continue to lead? How do we see ourselves and our role for the next century?

In the 20th century, America was thrust into global leadership by circumstance. Now we have to choose whether to shape the world. But it's really no choice at all, not if we want our children to know peace and prosperity and the promise of a better day. We could choose to see our role as a burden. I choose to see it as a blessing, a privilege, a responsibility.

That's why we have reversed the decline in defense spending that began in 1985. We must continue to work together to keep our military the best trained, best equipped in the world. My budget invests in readiness and in 21st century weapons. And it raises salaries for our men and women in uniform. *Unik - Colum - T*

We must also continue to fund the 1 percent of our budget that supports our international engagement and keeps our soldiers out of war. Last year, you worked with me to do that and to resume paying our UN dues and arrears. Let's do it again this year. And let's remember that building the right kind of global community is vital for a strong, secure American community . . .

RESPONSIBILITY AND CRIME

Here is another heartening statistic. The overall crime rate in America has dropped every year for the past seven years -- the longest continuous decline in crime ever recorded. It happened because we took more responsibility for helping America fight crime, from passing the Brady bill to funding 100,000 new community police officers. Last fall, Congress agreed to support my plan to hire up to 50,000 more police officers, with special help for high-crime neighborhoods. Congress must continue that support this year.

But while we are grateful that America is much safer, no one believes America is safe enough. We have the opportunity and responsibility to make America the safest big country in the world.

We must begin by doing more to keep guns out of the hands of criminals and juveniles.

Last year, Congress listened to the gun lobby, rather than the American people, and gave up a chance to require Brady background checks at gun shows and child safety locks for all new

*Sarah/Gar
Horn/Gilbert*

Anna Chip

handguns. Passing this common-sense gun safety legislation should be the very next action of this Congress.

But we can and must do more. States require hunters and automobile drivers to have licenses. To reduce firearms accidents and keep guns out of the wrong hands, tonight I propose that states have licenses for gun purchasers as well. *WJC*

To those who say that instead of strengthening gun laws, we should better enforce gun laws now on the books. I say, we already are. Federal gun crime prosecutions are higher today than in 1992, and are up 25 percent since 1998. But again, we should do more. We must hire more federal and local gun prosecutors, and more ATF agents to crack down on illegal gun traffickers and bad-apple dealers who supply guns to criminals and juveniles. We must supply law enforcement with the tools to trace the origin of every gun used in a crime in America. And we must create a national ballistics network capable of tracing almost any bullet left at a crime scene anywhere in America to the gun of the criminal who fired it.

Listen to this: the accidental gun death rate of children under 15 is nine times higher in the U.S. than in 25 other industrialized nations combined. Technologies now exist that could lead to guns that can only be fired by the adults who own them. It's time to help the gun industry accelerate development of these smart guns. It's time for the gun industry to take responsibility too, and reform the way it does business -- and help bring down gun violence in America. *By the way, try to get good gun guy*

Another vital measure we can take to reduce the crime rate is to provide more supervision, and demand more responsibility, from the hundreds of thousands of offenders who leave our prisons every year. We know that those on parole or probation who use drugs are [tk]-times more likely than others to commit another crime, but half as likely to do so if they get drug treatment. We must provide them that drug treatment, along with drug testing and a simple bargain: stay clean and you stay free; do drugs and you do more time.

The tragic school shootings in Littleton and elsewhere have been a terrible reminder of how vulnerable our children are to violence—and how much more we must do, at all levels of society, to protect them. Last year, I launched a national grassroots campaign to bring experts and local communities together to identify the most effective responses to youth violence. We also began funding efforts by local communities to develop comprehensive solutions to school violence, and this year we must increase our support of this vital endeavor.

Every parent I know worries about the amount of violence in the media. I believe the entertainment industry should respond to parents concerns. I give the industry credit for accepting my challenge to put voluntary ratings not just on movies but on TV programming and video and Internet games. This year, we must go farther. Let's give parents what they most need: one rating system for all their children's entertainment—a system that is easy to understand and enforce. Tonight, I want to honor the person who has championed this idea, and been a champion of children and families as long as I have known her, your First Lady and my wife: Hillary Rodham Clinton.

At its best, popular culture can uplift and educate us even as it entertains us. Joining us tonight is someone whose half-century of work has appealed to the very best in our children – indeed, in all of us. We already miss reading “Peanuts” each day, but Charlie Brown, Lucy, and Snoopy will never be far from our hearts. We thank you, Charles Schulz, for your creations, and for being here with us.

RESPONSIBILITY, OPPORTUNITY, AND THE ENVIRONMENT

We have an abiding responsibility to be wise stewards of our air, water, and land. And because of new technologies, we also have the opportunity to do so in ways that enhance economic growth.

I am grateful for the many opportunities Vice President Gore and I have had to honor this commitment to future generations – and to finally put to rest the long-outdated notion that a strong economy and a healthy environment are incompatible goals. For as our economy has grown ever stronger, our environment has grown ever healthier. We have rid countless neighborhoods of toxic waste; ensured cleaner drinking water for millions of families; taken unprecedented action to improve the air we breathe.

*For later
action*

Two weeks ago, I visited the north rim of the Grand Canyon and created three new National Monuments – adding to the tens of millions of acres of forests and deserts and wilderness we are preserving for all Americans, for all time. In the past three months alone, we have acted to preserve pristine backcountry lands in our National Forests and created three new National Monuments – adding to the tens of millions of acres we have protected for all Americans, for all time. Not since the days of Theodore Roosevelt has the nation come together to save so much precious land in the continental United States.

Booth

But our population and our cities are growing, and our commitment to conservation must keep growing as well. So tonight, as part of my Lands Legacy Initiative, I propose creating, for the first time, a permanent conservation endowment to save wildlands, protect coastlines, restore wildlife, and preserve small but sacred green spaces. This endowment would provide nearly \$1.5 billion each year – by far the largest, most enduring investment in land preservation ever proposed.

As we rise to protect our land, we must also help other nations that are struggling to protect theirs. The rainforests are the lungs of our planet – and yet they are disappearing at the rate of more than 50 acres a minute. Tonight, I propose a new plan to help developing countries from the Amazon to the Congo Basin strengthen their economies by preserving, rather than destroying, their irreplaceable forests.

The greatest environmental challenge of the new century is global warming. Scientists tell us that the 1990s were the hottest decade of the entire millennium – and that if we fail to heed the writing on the wall, our seas will rise and natural disasters will become more frequent with each passing year. America must act. America must lead.

Tonight, I announce three new efforts to do just that. First, I propose a [\$100 million] initiative to help developing countries adopt clean-energy technologies and avoid the costly trade-offs that we made in the past. With these new technologies, they can expand their economies, improve the lives of their people, and protect the environment at the same time. Second, to strengthen efforts at home, I propose closing the loophole that allows old power plants to foul the air our children breathe and to continue spewing more greenhouse gases than any other source. Third, I call on the auto industry to help move the next generation of vehicles – cars that get 70 or more miles to the gallon – from the laboratory to the showroom floor.

technology
greenhouse?

We must put 21st century technology to work in building a 21st century economy in harmony with the environment. We must make sure this country of ours lasts through the ages.

THE OPPORTUNITY AND RESPONSIBILITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

As we enter this new era, it is already clear: technology is making it a millennium of miracles. They promise dramatic improvements in health, in our economy and in our quality of life.

space

Biotechnology -- and our growing understanding of human genetics and physiology -- promises new treatments for disabilities and real cures for dread diseases. We are now on the brink of sequencing the human genome -- the very code of life -- which could bring cures for cancer, Alzheimer's, and AIDS. The new science of nanotechnology that allows us to manipulate molecules -- even atoms -- could help us detect tumors as small as a single cell, or develop molecular computers that can store on a cube of sugar the entire contents of the Library of Congress.

nanotechnology

With longer, healthier, better lives, we are redefining what it means to be old. Consider this: if we delay the onset of Alzheimer's by just five years, right now we could empty half the nursing home beds in America. If we could delay the onset of adult diabetes, we could save \$30 billion in health care costs.

In the future we will have new materials as strong as steel but ten times lighter. Ultra-clean fuel cells for cars whose only byproduct is water clean enough to drink. And computers that can translate spoken English into foreign languages and vice versa as fast as you can speak.

These and other technologies could change the way we work and live as surely as the Internet does today. Fully one-third of our recent growth is due to information technology. And the high-tech jobs it is creating are high-wage jobs -- paying nearly 80 percent more than the typical private-sector job.

For all these reasons, my budget will include a \$3 billion increase in the Twenty-First Century Research Fund. These investments will increase support for biomedical research, nanotechnology, information technology, clean energy and university-based research. This is more than an investment in research and development -- it is an investment in America's future. And we cannot move forward without it.

21st

But it is up to all of us to ensure that this new age of science and technology is also a new age of enlightenment. The advances we seek must be guided by the values we hold dear.

First and foremost, we must ensure that our privacy -- financial and medical -- is protected. Last year, our administration proposed rules to protect every citizen's most sensitive information, his or her medical records. This year, we will finalize those rules. We have also taken steps to protect our people's financial records. But these are only the first steps, as I said when I signed the financial modernization bill into law. I will soon send legislation to the Congress to complete this important unfinished business.

We will also take action to prevent genetic discrimination -- so no employer ever reviews your genetic records along with your resume. We will make sure that the actions of the government itself contain strong privacy protections. And tonight, I want to issue a strong challenge to on-line companies -- to do more to protect their customers' privacy.

Second, we know that our medical professionals work wonders every day; but we also know that their first obligation is to do no harm. My budget makes the largest investment in history to eliminate medical errors and enhance patient safety. Because no American should ever fear that their health care will jeopardize their health.

Nearly forty years ago, as America began its exploration of space, President Kennedy said, "We set sail on this new sea because there is knowledge to be gained ... for the progress of all people. Whether it will become a force for good or ill depends on man." If we take the right steps together, we can be confident that our progress will be a force for good.

COMMUNITY

In 18TK, the great foreign chronicler of America Alexis de Toqueville observed that in America, helping others is not just charity or compassion, it is a sign of good citizenship. De Toqueville was among the first to notice something that is still true of America today: much of what is noblest in our public life occurs outside of government--in the churches, charities, and volunteer groups, to which average citizens contribute money, and their time. We have long relied on this community of active citizenship to meet some of our toughest social challenges. In the 21st Century, we must strengthen and expand this community as never before.

To tap the full potential of philanthropic institutions, we must broaden the base of those who give. Tonight, I propose new tax incentives to do just that. Lower and middle income Americans who give deserve what wealthier Americans can get: a tax deduction for contributions to charity.

We can also do more to bring communities of faith into the circle of service. Faith-based organizations work tirelessly everyday to help Americans fight drug and alcohol abuse and to provide opportunities for young people to get back on the right track or to stay out of trouble in the first place. We can respect the line between church and state and still do more to support the good works of these groups.

We can do even more to elevate the cause of citizen service. When I first ran for this office, I had faith that if we gave our young people the opportunity to serve their communities, they would answer the call. Together, we created AmeriCorps in 1994, and today, over 150,000 AmeriCorps members have served in countless ways, from teaching children to helping the homeless—often working with non-profit organizations.

Today, AmeriCorps graduates, like veterans of our military and the Peace Corps, are an enormous pool of know-how and can-do. We need to tap that resource. Tonight, I propose the creation of the AmeriCorps Reserves to activate former AmeriCorps members in times of crisis including natural disasters.

The AmeriCorps oath concludes with the words: I will get things done. Let us do the same. Let us build on the success of AmeriCorps, fund it fully, and keep it strong for all time.

Of course, the most fundamental responsibility of citizenship begins in the voting booth. More than half of our children live in households where neither parent votes. Too many simply think politics doesn't matter. But it does. So I say to all Americans: whatever your party, whatever your ideology, whatever you do, make your voice heard. Vote.

And this is the year of the census, so you have a unique opportunity to not only stand up and be counted, but to make your voice count.

One of the wonders of our time is the way technology is expanding the community of citizenship, creating new ways for individuals to get involved in the democratic process. A few months ago, I held the first Presidential on-line town meeting. Starting next month, I will launch a series of what I call "Webside Chats"—on-line discussions focused on issues and ideas. We can give more Americans the opportunity to share their views and be a part of our national community.

From the beginning, that community has been enriched by new immigrants. Like those before them, today's new immigrants are renewing the spirit of America. And like those before them, they know they must learn English to reach their full potential.

Demand for English language classes is so high that some states have even resorted to a lottery system to pick students. We must be clear: learning English should be an opportunity available to all -- not a raffle. My budget boosts support for English as a second language and links classes with civics education. So as new immigrants learn English, they can also become fluent in the rights and responsibilities of American life.

We are more diverse than ever before. The face of America is changing. We all know that. The question ahead is not: how will we look? But, what will we be? What will we choose as a community to do with our diversity?

This fall, as a part of our ongoing millennium celebrations, the First Lady and I hosted a discussion with Eric Lander, one of America's leading geneticists, who is with us here tonight. Dr. Lander explained that all human beings genetically are 99.9 percent the same. Science seems

to affirm what faith has always taught us: that the differences between us are nothing compared to the common humanity that unites us all.

We are more united than ever, but we have work to do. We cannot ignore the hatred that spawned such recent incidents as the murder of young Matthew Shepard or the dragging death of James Byrd in Texas. Rather than give into hate, the Byrd family transformed their hate to a new foundation for racial reconciliation. We're honored to have [TK Byrd] with us tonight.

Let me say again, discrimination and violence against anyone because of race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, ancestry or disability is wrong. We must also make it illegal. I ask the Congress once more to pass, without further delay, the Hate Crimes Prevention Act and the Employment Non-Discrimination Act.

And finally, to make the most of our economic and social progress we have made together, we must continue our journey to building One America in the 21st century. That means rededicating ourselves to the ideals of justice and opportunity for all that are at the heart of our democracy. No American should be subjected to discrimination in housing, education, federal contracting or any other aspect of American life. My budget increases funding substantially for civil rights enforcement at the EEOC and the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division—to make sure that protections in law are protections in fact.

Last February, I created the White House Office on One America to coordinate our efforts and help build community partnerships for racial reconciliation. We are reaching out across our nation – from lawyers to religious leaders to corporate leaders to make sure every American can help build the One America of our dreams.

We know there is only one way to achieve that kind of nation—not through machines or money or might. Above all, it must flow from the human spirit. Let us take on the unfinished work of our time. Let us do our part to lift the burden of race and make the promise of America the practice of America.

8th
My fellow Americans, this is the ~~seventh~~ time I have had the privilege of this high moment. Each time I have approached it with great hope and great expectations for our nation. But there is no escaping the fact that tonight is different. For tonight, we stand on the mountaintop of a new millennium. Behind us we see the great expanse of American achievement, and before us, ~~vast~~ ^{new} frontiers of possibility yet to be explored.

The children of the future will see: generations of Americans earned this moment – earned this opportunity – and we have an obligation to make the most of it. Not even the most far-sighted of our forebears could have predicted that American ingenuity and spirit would lead the world to these unprecedented heights of prosperity and peace. And we can only imagine the heights to which we will climb in this new century.

And so, tonight, whether you are settling in the comfort of today's growing affluence or climbing out of the shadows of yesterday's despair, look up and see that the sun is rising on a new century of hope and possibility in America. Look up and take your place in the procession

of Americans, great and small, whose gifts to the past have brought us to this moment of great promise. Now it is your time. You are our gifts to the future. Together, we can make the next 100 years, America's greatest century.

Thank you, God bless you, and God bless America.

Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001. memo	Melanne Verveer and Maria Echaveste to the President re: SOTU Gallery (6 pages)	01/18/2000	b(6)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
Speechwriting
Josh Gottheimer
OA/Box Number: 17503

FOLDER TITLE:

SOTU [State of the Union] 2000: Drafts B [binder] [5]

2016-0201-S
rc1967

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

- P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
- P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
- P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
- P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
- P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
- P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).

RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

- b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
- b(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
- b(3) Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
- b(4) Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
- b(6) Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]
- b(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
- b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
- b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

**PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON
STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS
UNITED STATES CAPITOL
WASHINGTON, DC
January 27, 2000**

From —
3rd way
Last nt. DNC

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Vice President, Members of Congress, honored guests, my fellow Americans: Tonight I have the honor of delivering the first State of the Union Address of a new century and a new millennium.

We are fortunate to be alive at this moment in history. Never before has our nation enjoyed, at once, so much prosperity, social progress, and self-confidence with so little internal crisis or so few external threats. Never have our values – of freedom and democracy – been more ascendant around the world. Never have we had such a blessed opportunity – and, therefore, such a profound obligation – to build the more perfect union of our founders' dreams.

We end the 20th Century, and begin the 21st, at a high point in our history. There is no better moment to reflect on our hopes and dreams for our children. No better moment to make big plans for our nation. No better moment than today.

Today we are experiencing a remarkable American renaissance. Twenty million new jobs. The fastest economic growth in more than 30 years; the lowest unemployment rate in 30 years; the lowest poverty rate in 20 years; the first back-to-back budget surpluses in 42 years; the lowest African-American and Hispanic unemployment rate ever; the highest home ownership

ever. And next month, America will achieve the longest economic expansion in our nation's history.

My fellow Americans, I stand before you tonight to report that the state of our union is strong – the strongest it has ever been.

We are experiencing not only a renaissance of the American economy, but something even more important: a renewal of the American spirit. Across our land we see a revival of responsibility. . . a renewal of the bonds of community. Who would have thought that in just seven years we could cut the welfare rolls in half, and moved millions from welfare to work? Who would have thought that we could cut crime by one quarter, to its lowest level in more than 30 years? Who would have thought that we could reverse virtually every terrible social trend of the last few decades, from teen pregnancy going down, to adoptions going up? Our social fabric, once frayed, is on the mend. *[drug abuse among young]?*

Tonight it is clear: Our nation is prepared for the new century.

Bridge here

speaking to the Am people

It is also clear that the American people – by the hard work they do every day – deserve

see last night the credit, and our thanks. My gratitude also goes to the many of you, here in this chamber, who have worked with us to make the tough decisions, to put progress above partisanship for the sake of our people. I thank you.

All began Def. Red. Act '93
Lionel Blumenthal

/ Tie-breaking
vote... Al Gore

Eight years ago, it was not clear to most Americans that there would be much to celebrate in the year 2000. Our nation was gripped by economic distress, social decline, political ~~quandary~~ stalemate, and discredited government. In 1992, at a time of rising crime, mounting deficits, and high unemployment, ~~the rise of~~ ~~was entitled to~~ a best-selling book asked: "What went wrong?" ~~Last at - edited remarks~~
Have to make sure - assume shorthand understood

But in the best traditions of our nation, of the time of Lincoln and the two Roosevelts, America determined to set things right. We replaced outdated ideologies with bold, new ideas anchored in basic, enduring values: opportunity for all; ~~but also~~ responsibility from all. That's how you build a community of all Americans. ~~mean more~~
parallelism / explaining

That's how we turned decades of record deficits into back-to-back record surpluses – not by denigrating government but by reinventing it, and acting with fiscal discipline. That's how we have cut crime – not by debating between prevention and punishment but by doing both, and doing them better – passing the Brady Law that has kept guns out of the hands of half a million criminals, and funding 100,000 community police to make our neighborhoods safer. That's how we have protected our environment – not with ~~by new strategies~~ old-style regulations but with new approaches and technologies.

lover

That's how we ended welfare as we knew it – by ending dependency and empowering millions to go to work. That's how we have helped parents to succeed at work and at home – by offering new approaches, like Family and Medical Leave, which 20 million working Americans have used to care for sick loved ones. That's how we have opened the doors of college to all – with HOPE scholarship tax cuts, more Pell Grants, and more affordable college loans. That's

how we have engaged 150,000 more young Americans in citizen service – building One America, one community at a time, through AmeriCorps. And that's how we have seized the opportunities of a global era – by expanding trade ^{standing against...} with more than 270 new agreements and ~~extending~~ ^{and standing for} our values around the world.

In 1992, we had a roadmap. In the year 2000, we have results. We have built our bridge to the 21st Century. Now, let us lift our sights and take what Theodore Roosevelt called “the long look ahead.”

Let us look beyond this year, even beyond this decade, and ask ourselves: How will we make the most of this moment of promise? What are our biggest challenges, and how will we meet them?

Tonight, let us pledge:

At a time of unprecedented economic growth, let's bring prosperity into every community in America.

^{record surplus} ^{keep going} ^{debt free for 1st time}

At a time when our people are living longer than ever, let's ensure that they are also living better – and healthier.

^{our} ^{cit} ^{their}
At a time when technology is transforming our world, let's realize ~~its~~ full promise and make sure our values guide our progress.

★ 2 big things, not prop. amplified here

10

At a time of steadily falling crime, let's make America the safest big nation on Earth.

At a time living longer than ever, let's keep going provide qual aff h.c. for ev. in Am

At a time when more families are working families, let's ensure that parents have the tools to succeed at work and at the most important work of all – raising children.

At a time when knowledge is the key to the new economy, let's make sure every child begins school ready to learn and graduates ready to succeed.

make note

Am in the world?

At a time when America is growing more diverse than ever, let's finally become what we've always known we can be: one nation, under God, indivisible.

worthy of a great nation.

These are big goals. We ~~may~~ ^{will} not reach them this year. But I believe we will reach them. If we stay on the path we've been on, we will get there the same way we got here: not in one single leap, but step by step.

always building on our progress, moving forward, gaining ground.

Of course, you can't gain ground if you're standing still. And for too long, this Congress

has been standing still on some of our most pressing national priorities. Let's get moving. This

year, let's strengthen Social Security. ^{extending its life beyond b.b. gen} Let's modernize Medicare ^{reform +} with a voluntary prescription-drug benefit. ^{lengthening its life and adding} Let's pass a real patients' bill of rights. Let's pass common-sense gun-safety

legislation. Let's pass meaningful hate-crimes legislation. Let's raise the minimum wage.

But that will only be the beginning of our journey.

we can do all these things ^{that} ^{req. us} ^{to invest} ^{and} ^{still} and still bal budget surplus each meet our goal of $\downarrow$ debt by 2015 —

structure

deal w/ next big step in meeting long-term goals — but don't ref. them ever

⊗ If we will make prog on all goals req. invest and still

Tonight, I will propose the first steps into the bold new frontier of the 21st century. I will begin with a New Opportunity Agenda for this new era—an agenda rooted in responsibility, and designed to create a stronger and more inclusive community. At its core is a simple, powerful, fundamental principle: “Opportunity for all.”

This new agenda updates an old American value for the Information Age. Two centuries ago, at our nation’s founding, opportunity meant, most of all, the freedom to carve a farm and an existence out of the forest frontier. Fifty years ago, opportunity meant a high school education – or even the G.I. Bill – and a job for life. Today, opportunity means something different. It means having a computer and knowing how to use it. It means changing careers and a lifetime of learning. It means mastering the tools and technologies of the new economy, in which ideas and information are the keys to success.

Our first steps into the 21st Century must be the right steps. They must be guided, first and foremost, by our faith that all children can learn and all adults can succeed.

OPPORTUNITY AND RESPONSIBILITY IN EDUCATION

For seven years we have pursued a simple strategy on education: Invest more, and demand more in return. Offer opportunity, but demand responsibility. We have helped nearly every state set higher academic standards for their schools. We are closing in on our goal of

connecting every classroom and library in America to the Internet. And for two years in a row, Congress has supported our effort to hire 100,000 new, qualified teachers, to lower class sizes in the early grades. This Congress must continue that support.

With these and other efforts, our students are learning more. Scores on college entrance exams are going up, even as more students from more-diverse backgrounds are taking the test. And some of the most impressive academic gains are happening in schools in some of America's poorest neighborhoods.

Schools like Beaufort [B'YOU-fert] Elementary in South Carolina. Five years ago, Beaufort was classified as one of the state's worst-performing schools. But under a new principal, Ruth Summerlin, Beaufort embraced accountability and higher academic standards, and started afterschool and summer school programs for students who were behind. Today, Beaufort's math and test scores exceed the state average, and local parents are pulling their children out of private schools and putting them in Beaufort. Ruth Summerlin is with us here tonight. *Thank you for proving what our children can do.*

I have visited schools like Beaufort all across America -- schools that have turned themselves around with the same proven formula: greater accountability, higher standards, and the conviction that all students can learn. Unfortunately, there are too many low-performing schools in this country that are not applying these lessons -- schools where, year after year, children fail to get the knowledge and skills they need to make the most of their God-given talents.

Last year, from this podium, I proposed an Education Accountability Act, to fundamentally change the way the federal government invests in our schools – to support what we know works, and stop supporting what doesn't. This year, I challenge Congress to not only pass that measure, but to make dramatic new investments in ideas we know are working.

We know that quality afterschool and summer school programs boost academic achievement. They also keep children off the street in the hours before parents get home from work, when juvenile crime soars. Tonight, I propose that we double our investment for afterschool and summer school. If we do this, we can give every child in every failing school in America the chance to meet high standards – and to beat them.

We know that our children who learn early learn best. And since 1993, we've put over 150,000 more children in the successful Head Start pre-school program, and improved the quality of Head Start. Tonight, I propose the largest funding increase for Head Start in history. With this increase, plus greater investment in early learning, we can take the first step toward providing universal pre-school for every four-year-old in America.

We know that if we want our children to learn, we need good teachers and principals. Tonight, I propose new efforts to help states and school districts recruit the best and brightest people to teaching, train principals as leaders and get rid of bad ones. And we must finish the job of hiring 100,000 qualified teachers to reduce class size.

We know that antiquated classrooms get in the way of learning, and that a third of all schools in America are in serious disrepair – with leaky roofs and antiquated electrical wiring. Tonight, I propose new investments to make immediate, urgent repairs to our schools. I renew my call for a tax credit to help build or modernize 6,000 schools nationwide – so we can take our children out of trailers and put them in modern classrooms. And let's make our high schools safer and better by investing in making them smaller. Let's make sure our kids go to schools where everybody knows their name.

how much, how many?

We know that we must turnaround failing schools – or shut them down. Last fall, Congress passed my plan to give districts the resources to do so. This year, let's double that investment. Let's also increase our investment in charter schools, to give parents more choice.

2 sent. growing when I became Pres...

And let's give bonuses to states that succeed in making scores go up across the board.

one of the most important things — revolutionize econ of going to college
1.4m inner-city kids that's what
We must also do more to help high school students prepare for, and succeed in, college.

We must increase tutoring and mentoring efforts, bring advanced placement courses to schools in isolated rural areas via the Internet, and offer disadvantaged students the same test prep courses wealthier students use to boost their scores on college entrance exams. [TK: Schumer/ college tax ideas]

couple substantive Hs

REWARDING WORK AND STRENGTHENING FAMILIES

FL/cong adoptions

It is often said that the foundation of American life is the family. I would add “the working family,” for it is through work that we support our families, and pass on our values to

our children. That is why the basic goal of so much of what we have done -- from reforming welfare to raising the minimum wage -- has been to encourage and reward work; to give more opportunities for a better life to all families responsible enough to work for it.

Simply put: When you work hard and play by the rules, good things should follow. ^{From} ~~To~~
your standard of living, to your savings, to your self-esteem.

One of the most powerful incentives to work has been the Earned Income Tax Credit, a targeted tax cut for low-income working families. The “E” in “EITC” is about earning; about working; about taking responsibility and being rewarded for it. As one of my first actions as President, I asked the Congress to dramatically expand the EITC, and we did. As a result, the EITC helped more than 4.3 million Americans in 1998 work their way into the middle class – double the number in 1993.

Tonight I propose that we expand opportunity by substantially expanding the EITC. We should reduce the marriage penalty for the EITC, making sure that this tax credit rewards marriage, and family, just as it rewards work, and expand the tax credit for families with more than two children. Our plan would provide those families up to \$1,200 more in tax relief. That’s enough for the average family to pay three months’ mortgage or eight months of health care coverage. And it’s an added incentive to make their way into the middle class. They’re working hard for it. We should help them to reach it.

For people who play by the rules, there's something else that should be within reach: their place of work. But two-thirds of new jobs are in the suburbs, far away from many low-income families. In the past two years, I have proposed and Congress has approved 110,000 new housing vouchers – to let more Americans live where opportunities abound. This year, let's more than double that number. If we want people to go to work, they have to be able to get to work.

tell people what that

cash ben to help make hses more affordable
help more low-income live closer to
working parents need quality child care. Last year, we helped jobs

Wherever they live, working parents need quality child care. Last year, we helped parents provide care for 1.25 million children. But child care should be better, safer, and more affordable. It's what our children deserve and what working parents need. My child care initiative would increase and improve care for 150,000 more children. And it's time we make the child care tax credit refundable to help families who need it most. Parents should be able to balance work and family – not have to choose between them.

★ MAKE BIGGER ^{paint a picture}

- ²⁷/₁₁ working for ↑ access
1997 - BBA —

Three years ago, we created a new way for hard-pressed working families to provide

health care for their children: the Children's Health Insurance Program. In less than a year, *at least 2m*
Funds to enroll 2x as many more
 enrollment CHIP has doubled, to 2 million children. But we must do more. As Vice President

Gore has been saying if states are looking to insure more children, they should go where the

children are – in schools, churches, and child-care centers. And we should take the next step and

enroll their parents, too. Nine million of them are eligible, but uninsured. And let's give a real, affordable option to the fastest growing group of uninsured: people between 55 and 65 who lose their coverage. We should allow them to buy into Medicare.

1774 + 4D also tx credit to make this option affordable.
BIOGAST
SNDST.
PROPOSAL
fill this out

[Tipper Gore, Mental Health – TK]

if we want to reward w + f, one of most important things..
~~And~~ let's make sure that men and women get equal pay for equal work. Today, women
earn 75 cents for every dollar men earn. That's just not good enough. My budget provides much
needed resources to enforce ^{present} equal pay laws, and to ^{more} train women for high-paying, high-tech jobs.
and which
And we should pass the Paycheck Fairness Act. That will go a long way toward opportunity and
dignity for working women.

again
This year, I ~~am~~ ^{am} proposing a progressive savings initiative to help low- and moderate-
income families work and save for retirement. [policy TK]

CUT BACK FATHERHOOD.

Franklin Roosevelt once said that “personal responsibility, guided by collective conscience, is the discipline of democracy.” We have no greater responsibility than to love and support the children we bring into this world. Yet nearly one child in three in America today grows up in a home without a father – and these children are five times more likely to live in poverty than children with both parents at home. I know many single mothers do a magnificent job of raising their children. But their task is made infinitely harder when there is no father to contribute income and love; to share the burdens and joys of parenthood; to teach the boys to be men and the girls to expect respect from men. Four years ago, we made an historic reform of welfare that has helped millions of mothers move from dependency on a welfare check to the dignity of a paycheck. Demanding and promoting responsible fatherhood is the critical next stage of welfare reform.

We have already begun, over the last seven years, to crack down on fathers who fail to pay child support by denying them drivers' licenses and creating a national database to track them across state lines. As a result, child support payments have doubled since 1993. The number of unwed fathers who legally acknowledge their paternity has tripled. And the percentage of children born into unwed homes, after skyrocketing for decades, has begun to level off, and the teenage birth rate is falling.

This is progress. But we must accelerate that progress, step by step, until the day that every father in America takes responsibility for his children. We can begin by toughening measures against fathers who owe child support, such as booting their cars. We can give fathers even more incentive to contribute by allowing more of their child support payments to go directly to their families.

And to absent parents who owe child support, we should say: we'll help you do right by your children, but you have to go to work, and pay them what you owe.

 Helping absent parents and others join the culture of work is good not just for them and their families. At a time when businesses across America have labor shortages, it is also good for our economy. Four years ago, I asked corporate leaders to join with us in a partnership to provide jobs to those leaving the welfare rolls. Today, 12,000 companies have hired nearly 650,000 former welfare recipients. Yet these companies need still more new workers. And they say they are increasingly willing to hire from a growing pool of potential labor: the half-million ex-offenders who leave our prisons every year. Tonight, I propose a new initiative to train,

Recognize Posas (re:fathers)

counsel, and more carefully monitor ex-offenders so they can become responsible employees, family members, and citizens.

For our economy to continue to enjoy rapid growth without inflation, it is vital that our corporations find not just new workers to hire, but new opportunities to invest, and new markets in which to sell. I believe these new markets exist right here in America—in the inner cities, poor rural areas, and Indian reservations -- places that have not yet been blessed by our nation's prosperity. Over the last six months, I have traveled to many of these places -- joined by many of you -- to shine a spotlight on the enormous opportunities in America's new markets.

Now, more than ever, we have the means to expand the circle of opportunity wide enough to include the men and women at its margins, so that no one who's willing to work is left behind as our nation moves ahead. For business, it's the smart thing to do. And for America, it's the right thing to do. If we don't do it now, when will we ever get around to it?

I believe businesses should have the same incentives to invest in America's new markets as they have to invest in new markets abroad. In this year's budget, I call on Congress to double our New Markets Tax Credit, to spur \$12 billion in ^{last yr: \$15b?} new equity capital for our untapped markets. We should also greatly increase funding to help large-scale businesses expand or relocate to our inner cities or rural areas. And we should increase the tax incentives that promote growth in our Empowerment Zones.

How's it bigger now?

How much

3) BIG THING

Speaker Hastert, it was a powerful moment last November when you joined me and Reverend Jesse Jackson on stage at Englewood High School, in your home state of Illinois, and pledged to work with my administration on common ground for New Markets legislation. So

~~let's work together to finish the job.~~

I thank you for your commitment and look forward to working w/ you.

Last July, I became the first President to visit an Indian reservation since Franklin Roosevelt. That's far too long. In this new century, let's honor our historic responsibility to Native Americans – the first Americans. My budget increases by more than \$1 billion our investment in health care, education, law enforcement, and infrastructure. Indian Country is a new market America should not – and must not – ignore.

We must also fulfill our obligation to our farming communities, the lifeblood of our land.

When I signed the farm bill in 1996, I ~~was concerned~~ ^{feared} it would work well in good times but not ~~as~~ ^{for farm firms}

~~well~~ ^{crop for family farmers} in bad times. In recent years, ~~our family farms~~ ^{they have} have endured droughts and floods and

~~financial crises abroad.~~ ^{with low prices due to} Our New Markets Initiative will help them diversify their economic

~~base. But let's also do more than mend the farm safety net.~~ ^{we must to strengthen} let's strengthen it.

OK
cancel
This spring, I will lead a New Markets tour to focus on another challenge: the growing “digital divide” between those who have access to the new economy and those who don’t. But the very technology that drives our expansion also creates tools to ensure that everyone, from the city to the farm to the reservation, can join in building our nation. My budget creates 1,000 new technology centers to connect poor communities to the economic mainstream. It also helps

Fr: adoption in this budget
in family section
- story + thank Cong...

mobilize the combined force of public, private, and nonprofit sectors to increase Internet access in low-income areas. Because you can't get in the game until you have the tools to play.

GLOBAL CHANGE AND AMERICAN LEADERSHIP

like all this

unanimous support
and for
helping
children
And I
want to
thank Fr.
→

As we move to master the possibilities of the new economy at home, we must also lead in shaping a global economy that extends our prosperity – and expresses our values.

Our international trade now accounts for one-quarter of our economy. It creates good jobs and brings us new products and technologies. We need to keep that trade growing, and make sure it grows fairly. That means enforcing our own rules to protect our workers, our industries, and our environment. It means making international trade – and the WTO – more open and responsive to concerns about dignity of work and quality of life. And it means remembering that a global economy based on rules is far preferable than one with no rules at all.

That is why China should join the WTO and live under the same trade rules we do. And when it does, America's companies and workers should gain new opportunities in every sector or China's vast market. I ask Congress to lock in this opportunity by passing Permanent Normal Trade Relations status for China. This is a good deal for America. It will level the playing field in U.S.-China trade, and it is a chance to help China along the road to change.

When we engage in the global economy, we are investing in our shared future. Growth from trade is not just vital for us, but for the 1.3 billion people around the world who still live on

less than a dollar a day. To help pass opportunity on to them, we should do our part – our full part – to reduce the debts that cripple the world’s poorest nations. I ask Congress to support that effort, and to finalize our initiatives to unlock new trade with Africa and the Caribbean Basin. If we stay engaged, we will be helping Americans master the new economy . . . and helping others around the world become masters of their own future.

At a moment when American power is unrivaled and the world is coming together around ideals we have lived by and died for, we have a responsibility to lead. Never forget the Americans who struggled to give us this chance. Never forget that hundreds of millions of people live in peace today because of the Americans who rest in peace in graves marked and unmarked across the world. We have come too far, sacrificed too much, to stop the world and get off now; we must continue to shape the world. So let us look beyond our borders to the big questions that will shape the 21st century world, and look within for the strength to find the answers.

A central question is whether our security will be threatened by regional conflicts, especially those rooted in ethnic and religious tensions, that pose the risk of wider war. With all its amazing advances, our modern world is still bedeviled by our oldest failing – fear of those who are different from us. In too many places, that fear is exploited by unscrupulous leaders trying to cling to power or make brutal war on their neighbors.

America cannot prevent every conflict or stop every outrage. But when our interests and our values are at stake and we can make a difference, we must be peacemakers. For history

teaches that all big wars start small, and when human beings anywhere are singled out for destruction because of who they are, it is our common humanity that suffers.

We should be proud that we have helped bring the Middle East closer than ever to comprehensive peace. [Update on Israel-Syria; essential that America does its share].

We should be proud of the role America played in bring peace to Northern Ireland... in helping to end the bloodletting in East Timor...in supporting efforts to end Africa's cruel wars.

And we should be proud of the men and women of our armed forces who made it possible for a million innocent people to return home to Kosovo last year. Now, instead of struggling to defeat something evil, we can focus on building something good: a Europe undivided, democratic and at peace for the first time in history.

With us today are two Americans who've shown how both power and persuasion can serve the cause of peace. When Slobodan Milosevic unleashed ethnic cleansing in Kosovo, Captain John Cherrey was one of the brave airmen who turned the tide – and when an American plane went down, he flew into the teeth of Serbian air defenses to bring its pilot home. When the peace process in Northern Ireland was in trouble, the man who did so much to start it went back one more time to save it, and now, with George Mitchell's help, the people there have a working government with all parties represented. Captain Cherrey, Senator Mitchell, we honor you with our gratitude, and with our determination to finish the work you helped begin.

A second question is whether our former adversaries, Russia and China, emerge in the coming century as stable, prosperous, democratic partners of the United States.

Today, we face a Russia weakened by the legacy of communism, by economic crisis, by a cruel and futile war in Chechnya. But never forget how much else has changed: 5,000 former Soviet nuclear weapons dismantled; Russian troops serving with us in the Balkans; a constitutional transfer of power from one leader to another for the first time in a 1000 years of Russian history. Russia's long journey to democracy is profoundly important. A generation from now, let it be said we did our part to help.

As for China, we must promote our interest with firmness, but not fear. China cannot buy its stability and stature at the expense of freedom. But let us not isolate China from the global forces empowering its people to seek a better life. We want to see China on the inside, playing by the rules, not on the outside denying them.

A third question for the new century is whether terrorists and hostile nations will acquire the means to undermine our defenses, and make us live in fear again.

Thanks in part to the biggest counter-terrorism operation in our history, the millennial celebrations passed without a violent attack. But this age-old threat, magnified by modern tools of destruction, remains real.

Bio/chem
huge budget item
just a ref.

To prevent terrorists and potential adversaries from acquiring deadly weapons, we must work with Russia to keep nuclear weapons secure and continue to reduce our arsenals. We must restrain nuclear and missile programs in North Korea and Iran's, and continuing to prevent Iraq from threatening its neighbors. And we must strength global standards against proliferation. That is why I am committed to working with the Senate on a bipartisan basis to rebuild a consensus for the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty.

We are also developing a system to defend America against missile attack from outlaw nations, while working to preserve the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty with Russia. And my balanced budget devotes \$2 billion to defend America's cyberspace against hackers, criminals and potential adversaries.

A fourth question is whether the stability of the 21st century would will be threatened by a growing gap between rich and poor. We just cannot accept a future in which part of humanity lives on the cutting edge of a new economy, while another lives on the edge of survival.

A large part of the answer is freedom. With the hopeful transitions to democracy in Nigeria and Indonesia, more people won the right to choose their leaders in 1999 than in 1989, the year the Berlin Wall fell. Yet even countries making all the right choices must sometimes struggle to deliver for their people.

We must stand by democracies like Columbia fighting for their lives – and for our lives – against narcotics traffickers. I have proposed a two-year, \$1.6 billion package to help Colombia and I count on your support.

We must stand by impoverished nations held back by debt and disease. My budget calls for a new \$150 million investment in the global fight against AIDS and other infectious killers. And I will call on our partners in the G-7 and around the world to join us in a Millennium initiative to speed the delivery and development of vaccines to countries that might otherwise never be able to afford them. Today, I am proposing a tax credit that will say to private industry – if you develop vaccines for diseases like malaria, AIDS and TB, we will help pay for them, and we will lift millions of lives together.

The final questions are the most important of all: Will America continue to lead? How do we see ourselves and our role for the next century?

In the 20th century, America was thrust into global leadership by circumstance. Now we have to choose whether to shape the world. But it's really no choice at all, not if we want our children to know peace and prosperity and the promise of a better day. We could choose to see our role as a burden. I choose to see it as a blessing, a privilege, a responsibility.

That's why we have reversed the decline in defense spending that began in 1985. We must continue to work together to keep our military the best trained, best equipped in the world.

People who say no C doctrine
bullshit
↓

CTBT — H ∴ underneath all debates ...
un dues/
foreign aid/
debt relief — isolationism
interdependent world — Michael Elliott book
Foreign Affairs
Explore Cong — Am in
set traps, mid of
genuine debate, each
network
make
diff
larger question 21

That's why... we have to have a theory up front
tie one arm to this

My budget invests in readiness and in 21st century weapons. And it raises salaries for our men and women in uniform.

yes, strong leaders but
good partners
by two

incl those
who need
a helping
hand

We must also continue to fund the 1 percent of our budget that supports our international engagement and keeps our soldiers out of war. Last year, you worked with me to do that and to resume paying our UN dues and arrears. Let's do it again this year. And let's remember that building the right kind of global community is vital for a strong, secure American community . . .

RESPONSIBILITY AND CRIME

Here is another heartening statistic. The overall crime rate in America has dropped every year for the past seven years -- the longest continuous decline in crime ever recorded. It happened because we took more responsibility for helping America fight crime, from passing the Brady bill to funding 100,000 new community police officers. Last fall, Congress agreed to support my plan to hire up to 50,000 more police officers, with special help for high-crime neighborhoods. Congress must continue that support this year.

But while we are grateful that America is much safer, no one believes America is safe enough. We have the opportunity and responsibility to make America the safest big country in the world.

too much of a fuck-you

We must begin by doing more to keep guns out of the hands of criminals and juveniles.

Last year, Congress listened to the gun lobby, rather than the American people, and gave up a

considered common-sense leg

to reg. BB blgd. cheds,
safety locks,

22

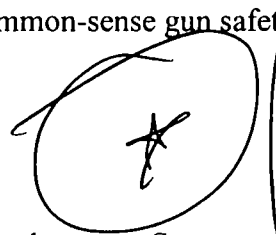
(A)

ban import... lg ammo
clips

chance to require Brady background checks at gun shows and child safety locks for all new handguns. Passing this common-sense gun safety legislation should be the very next action of this Congress.

*in face of Sen. passed
enormous w/ VP pass
brp. courageous
robe to
repons.*

*ref
father of
Columbian
child*



*this yr I hope the
hcd will follow suit
b/c child lives depend*

But we can and must do more. States require hunters and automobile drivers to have licenses. To reduce firearms accidents and keep guns out of the wrong hands, tonight I propose that states have licenses for gun purchasers as well.

*in face
of
loss of
son, child
using
assault
weapons*

To those who say that instead of strengthening gun laws, we should better enforce gun laws now on the books. I say, we already are. Federal gun crime prosecutions are higher today than in 1992, and are up 25 percent since 1998. But again, we should do more. We must hire more federal and local gun prosecutors, and more ATF agents to crack down on illegal gun traffickers and bad-apple dealers who supply guns to criminals and juveniles. We must supply law enforcement with the tools to trace the origin of every gun used in a crime in America. And we must create a national ballistics network capable of tracing almost any bullet left at a crime scene anywhere in America to the gun of the criminal who fired it.

*trans
grief
into
a domain
more
than
J.B
laughte*

*very
up
a,
★*

*open
hand*

Gun mfr who are work a/no respons

Listen to this: the accidental gun death rate of children under 15 is nine times higher in the U.S. than in 25 other industrialized nations combined. Technologies now exist that could lead to guns that can only be fired by the adults who own them. It's time to help the gun industry accelerate development of these smart guns. It's time for the gun industry to take responsibility too, and reform the way it does business -- and help bring down gun violence in America.

*- I thank
them +
I ask
rest
of ar.
to
join
them
in step
up to
resp.*

objective?
trying to ↓ recidivism

Another vital measure we can take to reduce the crime rate is to provide more supervision, and demand more responsibility, from the hundreds of thousands of offenders who leave our prisons every year. We know that those on parole or probation who use drugs are [tk]-times more likely than others to commit another crime, but half as likely to do so if they get drug treatment. We must provide them that drug treatment, along with drug testing and a simple bargain: stay clean and you stay free; do drugs and you do more time.

60-70%
commit
crime
are
drug
addicted

Trans-comm. efforts

The tragic school shootings in Littleton and elsewhere have been a terrible reminder of how vulnerable our children are to violence—and how much more we must do, at all levels of society, to protect them. Last year, I launched a national grassroots campaign to bring experts and local communities together to identify the most effective responses to youth violence. We also began funding efforts by local communities to develop comprehensive solutions to school violence, and this year we must increase our support of this vital endeavor.

If we
say it...
I never
proposed it
I thought
we didn't
have \$ -
have some
money
to raise -
Liz Phillips
Ambassador

Changed model for govt in philanthropy section...

Every parent I know worries about the amount of violence in the media. I believe the entertainment industry should respond to parents concerns. I give the industry credit for accepting my challenge to put voluntary ratings not just on movies but on TV programming and video and Internet games. This year, we must go farther. Let's give parents what they most need: one rating system for all their children's entertainment—a system that is easy to understand and enforce. Tonight, I want to honor the person who has championed this idea, and been a champion of children and families as long as I have known her, your First Lady and my wife: Hillary Rodham Clinton.

wordy
but
ok

Christopher Reeve
Speaker

At its best, popular culture can uplift and educate us even as it entertains us. Joining us tonight is someone whose half-century of work has appealed to the very best in our children – indeed, in all of us. We already miss reading “Peanuts” each day, but Charlie Brown, Lucy, and Snoopy will never be far from our hearts. We thank you, Charles Schulz, for your creations, and for being here with us.

RESPONSIBILITY, OPPORTUNITY, AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Cleanup Gt Lakes – since VP
announced

We have an abiding responsibility to be wise stewards of our air, water, and land. And because of new technologies, we also have the opportunity to do so in ways that enhance economic growth.

I am grateful for the many opportunities Vice President Gore and I have had to honor this commitment to future generations – and to finally put to rest the long-outdated notion that a strong economy and a healthy environment are incompatible goals. For as our economy has grown ever stronger, our environment has grown ever healthier. We have rid countless neighborhoods of toxic waste; ensured cleaner drinking water for millions of families; taken unprecedented action to improve the air we breathe.

Two weeks ago, I visited the north rim of the Grand Canyon and created three new National Monuments – adding to the tens of millions of acres of forests and deserts and wilderness we are preserving for all Americans, for all time. In the past three months alone, we have acted to preserve pristine backcountry lands in our National Forests and created three new

National Monuments – adding to the tens of millions of acres we have protected for all

Americans, for all time. Not since the days of Theodore Roosevelt has the nation come together

to save so much precious land in the continental United States.

be clear
nat'l mon
evergrades
now are we keeping score?

But our population and our cities are growing, and our commitment to conservation must

keep growing as well. So tonight, as part of my Lands Legacy Initiative, I propose creating, for

the first time, a permanent conservation endowment to save wildlands, protect coastlines, restore

wildlife, and preserve small but sacred green spaces. This endowment would provide nearly

\$1.5 billion each year – by far the largest, most enduring investment in land preservation ever

proposed.

VP Livability Agenda

see
last yr
sum

As we rise to protect our land, we must also help other nations that are struggling to protect theirs. The rainforests are the lungs of our planet – and yet they are disappearing at the rate of more than 50 acres a minute. Tonight, I propose a new plan to help developing countries from the Amazon to the Congo Basin strengthen their economies by preserving, rather than destroying, their irreplaceable forests.

The greatest environmental challenge of the new century is global warming. Scientists tell us that the 1990s were the hottest decade of the entire millennium – and that if we fail to heed the writing on the wall, our seas will rise and natural disasters will become more frequent with each passing year. America must act. America must lead.

great policy

well or in next? b/c it's off

Tonight, I announce ~~three new efforts~~ to do just that. First, I propose a [\$100 million] initiative to help developing countries adopt clean-energy technologies and avoid the costly trade-offs that we made in the past. With these new technologies, they can expand their economies, improve the lives of their people, and protect the environment at the same time.

Second, to strengthen efforts at home, I propose closing the loophole that allows old power plants to foul the air our children breathe and to continue spewing more greenhouse gases than any other source. Third, I call on the auto industry to help move the next generation of vehicles

— cars that get 70 or more miles to the gallon — from the laboratory to the showroom floor.

how? what's the answer to them? 2 ex. — cars? — using proj. (san B)

not new reaffirm our commitment

we've been working on ~~it~~ partnership — Detroit proving

We must put 21st century technology to work in building a 21st century economy in harmony with the environment. We must make sure this country of ours lasts through the ages.

Mike IDHA: there is today clean energy section

rich unless you foul env — then clean up doesn't work — stamps in air 100 yrs. good news — big ideas is wrong getting rid of big ideas that are wrong. simply not necessary anymore thanks to sci/tech —

THE OPPORTUNITY AND RESPONSIBILITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

As we enter this new era, it is already clear: technology is making it a millennium of miracles. They promise dramatic improvements in health, in our economy and in our quality of life.



Byrland Doc/4PA — 40% utility bills → 65%

Biotechnology -- and our growing understanding of human genetics and physiology -- promises new treatments for disabilities and real cures for dread diseases. We are now on the brink of sequencing the human genome -- the very code of life -- which could bring cures for cancer, Alzheimer's, and AIDS. The new science of nanotechnology that allows us to manipulate molecules -- even atoms -- could help us detect tumors as small as a single cell, or develop



Genes — breast cancer breakthrough on Parkinson's (Fox)

space — benefits here in middle

coherent picture on sci — Neal
Lane says
all

molecular computers that can store on a cube of sugar the entire contents of the Library of Congress.

With longer, healthier, better lives, we are redefining what it means to be old. Consider this: if we delay the onset of Alzheimer's by just five years, right now we could empty half the nursing home beds in America. If we could delay the onset of adult diabetes, we could save \$30 billion in health care costs.

In the future we will have new materials as strong as steel but ten times lighter. Ultra-clean fuel cells for cars whose only byproduct is water clean enough to drink. And computers that can translate spoken English into foreign languages and vice versa as fast as you can speak.

These and other technologies could change the way we work and live as surely as the Internet does today. Fully one-third of our recent growth is due to information technology. And the high-tech jobs it is creating are high-wage jobs -- paying nearly 80 percent more than the typical private-sector job.

NIH/NSF one year?

For all these reasons, my budget will include a \$3 billion increase in the Twenty-First Century Research Fund. These investments will increase support for biomedical research, nanotechnology, information technology, clean energy and university-based research. This is more than an investment in research and development -- it is an investment in America's future. And we cannot move forward without it.

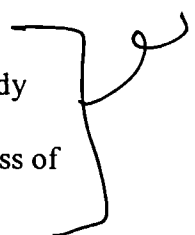
But it is up to all of us to ensure that this new age of science and technology is also a new age of enlightenment. The advances we seek must be guided by the values we hold dear.

First and foremost, we must ensure that our privacy -- financial and medical -- is protected. Last year, our administration proposed rules to protect every citizen's most sensitive information, his or her medical records. This year, we will finalize those rules. We have also taken steps to protect our people's financial records. But these are only the first steps, as I said when I signed the financial modernization bill into law. I will soon send legislation to the Congress to complete this important unfinished business.

We will also take action to prevent genetic discrimination -- so no employer ever reviews your genetic records along with your resume. We will make sure that the actions of the government itself contain strong privacy protections. And tonight, I want to issue a strong challenge to on-line companies -- to do more to protect their customers' privacy.

Second, we know that our medical professionals work wonders every day; but we also know that their first obligation is to do no harm. My budget makes the largest investment in history to eliminate medical errors and enhance patient safety. Because no American should ever fear that their health care will jeopardize their health.

Nearly forty years ago, as America began its exploration of space, President Kennedy said, "We set sail on this new sea because there is knowledge to be gained ... for the progress of



Proved — more on life expectancy
100 yrs ago...

all people. Whether it will become a force for good or ill depends on man." If we take the right steps together, we can be confident that our progress will be a force for good.

one of our goals — live longer / live well
Seniors

COMMUNITY

Words + no meat more explicit — challenge sr. to work w/ kids

In 1835, the great foreign chronicler of America Alexis de Toqueville observed that in America, helping others is not just charity or compassion, it is a sign of good citizenship. De Toqueville was among the first to notice something that is still true of America today: much of what is noblest in our public life occurs outside of government--in the churches, charities, and volunteer groups, to which average citizens contribute money, and their time. We have long relied on this community of active citizenship to meet some of our toughest social challenges. In the 21st Century, we must strengthen and expand this community as never before.

To tap the full potential of philanthropic institutions, we must broaden the base of those who give. Tonight, I propose new tax incentives to do just that. Lower and middle income Americans who give deserve what wealthier Americans can get: a tax deduction for contributions to charity.

We can also do more to bring communities of faith into the circle of service. Faith-based organizations work tirelessly everyday to help Americans fight drug and alcohol abuse and to provide opportunities for young people to get back on the right track or to stay out of trouble in the first place. We can respect the line between church and state and still do more to support the good works of these groups.

One Amer action

30

Here we are ...
N. Ire / Bosnia / ^{unleashed} / mention terrorism
— but this
no country is exempt
face fact in this
TX ... um ... shooting / killing
APAM / FBI / ...
fund museum

*This is in our country
make clear: NOT on way
Don't just ~~to~~ celebrate it.
protect it. → Pass...
END*

We can do even more to elevate the cause of citizen service. When I first ran for this office, I had faith that if we gave our young people the opportunity to serve their communities, they would answer the call. Together, we created AmeriCorps in 1994, and today, over 150,000 AmeriCorps members have served in countless ways, from teaching children to helping the homeless—often working with non-profit organizations.

Today, AmeriCorps graduates, like veterans of our military and the Peace Corps, are an enormous pool of know-how and can-do. We need to tap that resource. Tonight, I propose the creation of the Americorps Reserves to activate former AmeriCorps members in times of crisis including natural disasters.

The AmeriCorps oath concludes with the words: I will get things done. Let us do the same. Let us build on the success of AmeriCorps, fund it fully, and keep it strong for all time.

Of course, the most fundamental responsibility of citizenship begins in the voting booth. More than half of our children live in households where neither parent votes. Too many simply think politics doesn't matter. But it does. So I say to all Americans: whatever your party, whatever your ideology, whatever you do, make your voice heard. Vote.

And this is the year of the census, so you have a unique opportunity to not only stand up and be counted, but to make your voice count.

One of the wonders of our time is the way technology is expanding the community of citizenship, creating new ways for individuals to get involved in the democratic process. A few months ago, I held the first Presidential on-line town meeting. Starting next month, I will launch a series of what I call “Webside Chats”—on-line discussions focused on issues and ideas. We can give more Americans the opportunity to share their views and be a part of our national community.

From the beginning, that community has been enriched by new immigrants. Like those before them, today’s new immigrants are renewing the spirit of America. And like those before them, they know they must learn English to reach their full potential.

Demand for English language classes is so high that some states have even resorted to a lottery system to pick students. We must be clear: learning English should be an opportunity available to all -- not a raffle. My budget boosts support for English as a second language and links classes with civics education. So as new immigrants learn English, they can also become fluent in the rights and responsibilities of American life.

We are more diverse than ever before. The face of America is changing. We all know that. The question ahead is not: how will we look? But, what will we be? What will we choose as a community to do with our diversity?

This fall, as a part of our ongoing millennium celebrations, the First Lady and I hosted a discussion with Eric Lander, one of America’s leading geneticists, who is with us here tonight.

Dr. Lander explained that all human beings genetically are 99.9 percent the same. Science seems to affirm what faith has always taught us: that the differences between us are nothing compared to the common humanity that unites us all.

We are more united than ever, but we have work to do. We cannot ignore the hatred that spawned such recent incidents as the murder of young Matthew Shepard or the dragging death of James Byrd in Texas. Rather than give into hate, the Byrd family transformed their hate to a new foundation for racial reconciliation. We're honored to have [TK Byrd] with us tonight.

Let me say again, discrimination and violence against anyone because of race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, ancestry or disability is wrong. We must also make it illegal. I ask the Congress once more to pass, without further delay, the Hate Crimes Prevention Act and the Employment Non-Discrimination Act.

And finally, to make the most of our economic and social progress we have made together, we must continue our journey to building One America in the 21st century. That means rededicating ourselves to the ideals of justice and opportunity for all that are at the heart of our democracy. No American should be subjected to discrimination in housing, education, federal contracting or any other aspect of American life. My budget increases funding substantially for civil rights enforcement at the EEOC and the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division—to make sure that protections in law are protections in fact.

Last February, I created the White House Office on One America to coordinate our efforts and help build community partnerships for racial reconciliation. We are reaching out across our nation – from lawyers to religious leaders to corporate leaders to make sure every American can help build the One America of our dreams.

We know there is only one way to achieve that kind of nation—not through machines or money or might. Above all, it must flow from the human spirit. Let us take on the unfinished work of our time. Let us do our part to lift the burden of race and make the promise of America the practice of America.

My fellow Americans, this is the ^{8th} ~~seventh~~ time I have had the privilege of this high moment. Each time I have approached it with great hope and great expectations for our nation. But there is no escaping the fact that tonight is different. For tonight, we stand on the mountaintop of a new millennium. Behind us we see the great expanse of American achievement, and before us, ^{even larger} ~~vast~~ frontiers of possibility ^{yet to be explored}.

hooray but
The children of the future will see: generations of Americans earned this moment – earned this opportunity – and we have an obligation to make the most of it. Not even the most far-sighted of our forebears could have predicted that American ingenuity and spirit would lead the world to these unprecedented heights of prosperity and peace. And we can only imagine the heights to which we will climb in this new century.

And so, tonight, whether you are settling in the comfort of today's growing affluence or climbing out of the shadows of yesterday's despair, look up and see that the sun is rising on a new century of hope and possibility in America. Look up and take your place in the procession of Americans, great and small, whose gifts to the past have brought us to this moment of great promise. Now it is your time. You are our gifts to the future. Together, we can make the next 100 years, America's greatest century.

Thank you, God bless you, and God bless America.

reprise millennial end (pos framing)

seems old — forever
(see last nt.) young-
destiny
of Am
to be...

Not enough drama in choice before us

Never in lifetime... spelled / pin drop

easy not to act...

but it wd be terrible mistake

opp of lifetime
resp

we can chart course of next 50 yrs.

MAKE THE MOST OF THIS
MOMENT

SA 36

Draft5 01/19/00 11:15pm

**PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON
STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS
UNITED STATES CAPITOL
WASHINGTON, DC
January 27, 2000**

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Vice President, Members of Congress, honored guests, my fellow Americans: Tonight I have the honor of delivering the first State of the Union Address of a new century and a new millennium.

We are fortunate to be alive at this moment in history. Never before has our nation enjoyed, at once, so much prosperity, social progress, and self-confidence with so little internal crisis or so few external threats. Never have our values – of freedom and democracy – been more ascendant around the world. Never have we had such a blessed opportunity – and, therefore, such a profound obligation – to build the more perfect union of our founders' dreams.

We end the 20th Century, and begin the 21st, at a high point in our history. There is no better moment to reflect on our hopes and dreams for our children. No better moment to make big plans for our nation. No better moment than today.

Today we are experiencing a remarkable American renaissance. Twenty million new jobs. The fastest economic growth in more than 30 years; the lowest unemployment rate in 30 years; the lowest poverty rate in 20 years; the first back-to-back budget surpluses in 42 years; the lowest African-American and Hispanic unemployment rate ever; the highest home ownership ever. And next month, America will achieve the longest economic expansion in our nation's history. *40* *recorded*

My fellow Americans, I stand before you tonight to report that the state of our union is strong – the strongest it has ever been.

We are experiencing not only a renaissance of the American economy, but something even more important: a renewal of the American spirit. Across our land we see a revival of responsibility. . . a renewal of the bonds of community. Who would have thought that in just seven years we could cut the welfare rolls in half, and moved millions from welfare to work? Who would have thought that we could cut crime by one quarter, to its lowest level in more than 30 years? Who would have thought that we could reverse virtually every terrible social trend of the last few decades, from teen pregnancy going down, to adoptions going up? Our social fabric once frayed, is on the mend. *renaissance*

Tonight it is clear: Our nation is prepared for the new century.

It is also clear that the American people – by the hard work they do every day – deserve the credit, and our thanks. My gratitude also goes to the many of you, here in this chamber, who

At the end, the credit belongs to the American people.

streets, employment, welfare, pride on job, etc.

SA 36

have worked with us to make the tough decisions, to put progress above partisanship for the sake of our people. I thank you.

Myanmar | Eight years ago, it was not clear to most Americans that there would be much to celebrate in the year 2000. Our nation was gripped by economic distress, social decline, political stalemate, and discredited government. In 1992, at a time of rising crime, mounting deficits, and high unemployment, a best-selling book asked: "What went wrong?"

But in the best traditions of our nation, of the time of Lincoln and the two Roosevelts, America determined to set things right. We replaced outdated ideologies with bold, new ideas anchored in basic, enduring values: opportunity for all; but also responsibility from all. That's how you build a community of all.

That's how we turned decades of record deficits into back-to-back record surpluses – not by denigrating government but by reinventing it, and acting with fiscal discipline. That's how we have cut crime – not by debating between prevention and punishment but by doing both, and doing them better – passing the Brady Law that has kept guns out of the hands of half a million criminals, and funding 100,000 community police to make our neighborhoods safer. That's how we have protected our environment – not with old-style regulations but with new approaches and technologies.

That's how we ended welfare as we knew it – by ending dependency and empowering millions to go to work. That's how we have helped parents to succeed at work and at home – by offering new approaches, like Family and Medical Leave, which 20 million working Americans have used to care for sick loved ones. That's how we have opened the doors of college to all – with HOPE scholarship tax cuts, more Pell Grants, and more affordable college loans. That's how we have engaged 150,000 more young Americans in citizen service – building One America, one community at a time, through AmeriCorps. And that's how we have seized the opportunities of a global era – by expanding trade with more than 270 new agreements and extending our values around the world.

In 1992, we had a roadmap. In the year 2000, we have results. We have built our bridge to the 21st Century. Now, let us lift our sights and take what Theodore Roosevelt called "the long look ahead."

Let us look beyond this year, even beyond this decade, and ask ourselves: How will we make the most of this moment of promise? What are our biggest challenges, and how will we meet them?

Tonight, let us pledge:

At a time of unprecedented economic growth, let's bring prosperity into every community in America.

At a time when our people are living longer than ever, let's ensure that they are also living better – and healthier.

At a time when technology is transforming our world, let's realize its full promise and make sure our values guide our progress.

At a time of steadily falling crime, let's make America the safest big nation on Earth.

At a time when more families are working families, let's ensure that parents have the tools to succeed at work and at the most important work of all – raising children.

At a time when knowledge is the key to the new economy, let's make sure every child begins school ready to learn and graduates ready to succeed.

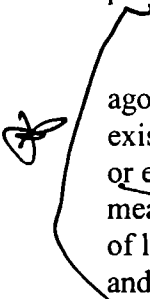
At a time when America is growing more diverse than ever, let's finally become what we've always known we can be: one nation, under God, indivisible.

These are big goals. We may not reach them this year. But I believe we will reach them. And we will get there the same way we got here: not in one single leap, but step by step – always building on our progress, moving forward, gaining ground.

Of course, you can't gain ground if you're standing still. And for too long, this Congress has been standing still on some of our most pressing national priorities. Let's get moving. This year, let's strengthen Social Security. Let's modernize Medicare with a voluntary prescription-drug benefit. Let's pass a real patients' bill of rights. Let's pass common-sense gun-safety legislation. Let's pass meaningful hate-crimes legislation. Let's raise the minimum wage.

But that will only be the beginning of our journey.

Tonight, I will propose the first steps into the bold new frontier of the 21st century. I will begin with a New Opportunity Agenda for this new era—an agenda rooted in responsibility, and designed to create a stronger and more inclusive community. At its core is a simple, powerful, fundamental principle: “Opportunity for all.”



This new agenda updates an old American value for the Information Age. Two centuries ago, at our nation's founding, opportunity meant, most of all, the freedom to carve a farm and an existence out of the forest frontier. Fifty years ago, opportunity meant a high school education – or even the G.I. Bill – and a job for life. Today, opportunity means something different. It means having a computer and knowing how to use it. It means changing careers and a lifetime of learning. It means mastering the tools and technologies of the new economy, in which ideas and information are the keys to success.

Our first steps into the 21st Century must be the right steps. They must be guided, first and foremost, by our faith that all children can learn and all adults can succeed.

OPPORTUNITY AND RESPONSIBILITY IN EDUCATION

For seven years we have pursued a simple strategy on education: Invest more, and demand more in return. Offer opportunity, but demand responsibility. We have helped nearly every state set higher academic standards for their schools. We are closing in on our goal of connecting every classroom and library in America to the Internet. And for two years in a row, Congress has supported our effort to hire 100,000 new, qualified teachers, to lower class sizes in the early grades. This Congress must continue that support.

With these and other efforts, our students are learning more. Scores on college entrance exams are going up, even as more students from more-diverse backgrounds are taking the test. And some of the most impressive academic gains are happening in schools in some of America's poorest neighborhoods.

Schools like Beaufort [B'YOU-fert] Elementary in South Carolina. Five years ago, Beaufort was classified as one of the state's worst-performing schools. But under a new principal, Ruth Summerlin, Beaufort embraced accountability and higher academic standards, and started afterschool and summer school programs for students who were behind. Today, Beaufort's math and test scores exceed the state average, and local parents are pulling their children out of private schools and putting them in Beaufort. Ruth Summerlin is with us here tonight.

I have visited schools like Beaufort all across America -- schools that have turned themselves around with the same proven formula: greater accountability, higher standards, and the conviction that all students can learn. Unfortunately, there are too many low-performing schools in this country that are not applying these lessons -- schools where, year after year, children fail to get the knowledge and skills they need to make the most of their God-given talents.

Last year, from this podium, I proposed an Education Accountability Act, to fundamentally change the way the federal government invests in our schools -- to support what we know works, and stop supporting what doesn't. This year, I challenge Congress to not only pass that measure, but to make dramatic new investments in ideas we know are working.

We know that quality afterschool and summer school programs boost academic achievement. They also keep children off the street in the hours before parents get home from work, when juvenile crime soars. Tonight, I propose that we double our investment for afterschool and summer school. If we do this, we can give every child in every failing school in America the chance to meet high standards -- and to beat them.

We know that our children who learn early learn best. And since 1993, we've put over 150,000 more children in the successful Head Start pre-school program, and improved the quality of Head Start. Tonight, I propose the largest funding increase for Head Start in history. With this increase, plus greater investment in early learning, we can take the first step toward providing universal pre-school for every four-year-old in America.

We know that if we want our children to learn, we need good teachers and principals. Tonight, I propose new efforts to help states and school districts recruit the best and brightest

people to teaching, train principals as leaders and get rid of bad ones. And we must finish the job of hiring 100,000 qualified teachers to reduce class size.

We know that antiquated classrooms get in the way of learning, and that a third of all schools in America are in serious disrepair – with leaky roofs and antiquated electrical wiring. Tonight, I propose new investments to make immediate, urgent repairs to our schools. I renew my call for a tax credit to help build or modernize 6,000 schools nationwide – so we can take our children out of trailers and put them in modern classrooms. And let's make our high schools safer and better by investing in making them smaller (Let's make sure our kids go to schools where everybody knows their name.)

We know that we must turnaround failing schools – or shut them down. Last fall, Congress passed my plan to give districts the resources to do so. This year, let's double that investment. Let's also increase our investment in charter schools, to give parents more choice. And let's give bonuses to states that succeed in making scores go up across the board.

We must also do more to help high school students prepare for, and succeed in, college. We must increase tutoring and mentoring efforts, bring advanced placement courses to schools in isolated rural areas via the Internet, and offer disadvantaged students the same test prep courses wealthier students use to boost their scores on college entrance exams. [TK: Schumer/ college tax ideas]

REWARDING WORK AND STRENGTHENING FAMILIES

It is often said that the foundation of American life is the family. I would add “the working family,” for it is through work that we support our families, and pass on our values to our children. That is why the basic goal of so much of what we have done -- from reforming welfare to raising the minimum wage -- has been to encourage and reward work; to give more opportunities for a better life to all families responsible enough to work for it.

Simply put: When you work hard and play by the rules, good things should follow. To your standard of living, to your savings, to your self-esteem.

One of the most powerful incentives to work has been the Earned Income Tax Credit, a targeted tax cut for low-income working families. The “E” in “EITC” is about earning; about working; about taking responsibility and being rewarded for it. As one of my first actions as President, I asked the Congress to dramatically expand the EITC, and we did. As a result, the EITC helped more than 4.3 million Americans in 1998 work their way into the middle class – double the number in 1993.

Tonight I propose that we expand opportunity by substantially expanding the EITC. We should reduce the marriage penalty for the EITC, making sure that this tax credit rewards marriage, and family, just as it rewards work, and expand the tax credit for families with more than two children. Our plan would provide those families up to \$1,200 more in tax relief. That's enough for the average family to pay three months' mortgage or eight months of health care

coverage. And it's an added incentive to make their way into the middle class. They're working hard for it. We should help them to reach it.

For people who play by the rules, there's something else that should be within reach: their place of work. But two-thirds of new jobs are in the suburbs, far away from many low-income families. In the past two years, I have proposed and Congress has approved 110,000 new housing vouchers – to let more Americans live where opportunities abound. This year, let's more than double that number. If we want people to go to work, they have to be able to get to work.

Wherever they live, working parents need quality child care. Last year, we helped parents provide care for 1.25 million children. But child care should be better, safer, and more affordable. It's what our children deserve and what working parents need. My child care initiative would increase and improve care for 150,000 more children. And it's time we make the child care tax credit refundable to help families who need it most. Parents should be able to balance work and family – not have to choose between them.

Three years ago, we created a new way for hard-pressed working families to provide health care for their children: the Children's Health Insurance Program. In less than a year, enrollment CHIP has doubled, to 2 million children. But we must do more. As Vice President Gore has been saying, if states are looking to insure more children, they should go where the children are – in schools, churches, and child-care centers. And we should take the next step and enroll their parents, too. Nine million of them are eligible, but uninsured. And let's give a real, affordable option to the fastest growing group of uninsured: people between 55 and 65 who lose their coverage. We should allow them to buy into Medicare.

[Tipper Gore, Mental Health – TK]

And let's make sure that men and women get equal pay for equal work. Today, women earn 75 cents for every dollar men earn. ~~That's just not good enough.~~ My budget provides much needed resources to enforce equal pay laws, and to train women for high-paying, high-tech jobs. And we should pass the Paycheck Fairness Act. ~~That will go a long way toward opportunity and dignity for working women.~~

This year, I am proposing a progressive savings initiative to help low- and moderate-income families work and save for retirement. [policy TK]

Franklin Roosevelt once said that “personal responsibility, guided by collective conscience, is the discipline of democracy.” We have no greater responsibility than to love and support the children we bring into this world. Yet nearly one child in three in America today grows up in a home without a father – and these children are five times more likely to live in poverty than children with both parents at home. I know many single mothers do a magnificent job of raising their children. But their task is made infinitely harder when there is no father to contribute income and love; to share the burdens and joys of parenthood; to teach the boys to be men and the girls to expect respect from men. Four years ago, we made an historic reform of welfare that has helped millions of mothers move from dependency on a welfare check to the

dignity of a paycheck. Demanding and promoting responsible fatherhood is the critical next stage of welfare reform.

We have already begun, over the last seven years, to crack down on fathers who fail to pay child support by denying them drivers' licenses and creating a national database to track them across state lines. As a result, child support payments have doubled since 1993. The number of unwed fathers who legally acknowledge their paternity has tripled. And the percentage of children born into unwed homes, after skyrocketing for decades, has begun to level off, and the teenage birth rate is falling.

This is progress. But we must accelerate that progress, step by step, until the day that every father in America takes responsibility for his children. We can begin by toughening measures against fathers who owe child support, such as booting their cars. We can give fathers even more incentive to contribute by allowing more of their child support payments to go directly to their families.

And to absent parents who owe child support, we should say: we'll help you do right by your children, but you have to go to work, and pay them what you owe.

Helping absent parents and others join the culture of work is good not just for them and their families. At a time when businesses across America have labor shortages, it is also good for our economy. Four years ago, I asked corporate leaders to join with us in a partnership to provide jobs to those leaving the welfare rolls. Today, 12,000 companies have hired nearly 650,000 former welfare recipients. Yet these companies need still more new workers. And they say they are increasingly willing to hire from a growing pool of potential labor: the half-million ex-offenders who leave our prisons every year. Tonight, I propose a new initiative to train, counsel, and more carefully monitor ex-offenders so they can become responsible employees, family members, and citizens.

For our economy to continue to enjoy rapid growth without inflation, it is vital that our corporations find not just new workers to hire, but new opportunities to invest, and new markets in which to sell. I believe these new markets exist right here in America—in the inner cities, poor rural areas, and Indian reservations -- places that have not yet been blessed by our nation's prosperity. Over the last six months, I have traveled to many of these places -- joined by many of you -- to shine a spotlight on the enormous opportunities in America's new markets.

Now, more than ever, we have the means to expand the circle of opportunity wide enough to include the men and women at its margins, so that no one who's willing to work is left behind as our nation moves ahead. For business, it's the smart thing to do. And for America, it's the right thing to do. If we don't do it now, when will we ever get around to it?

I believe businesses should have the same incentives to invest in America's new markets as they have to invest in new markets abroad. In this year's budget, I call on Congress to double our New Markets Tax Credit, to spur \$12 billion in new equity capital for our untapped markets. We should also greatly increase funding to help large-scale businesses expand or relocate to our

inner cities or rural areas. And we should increase the tax incentives that promote growth in our Empowerment Zones.

Speaker Hastert, it was a powerful moment last November when you joined me and Reverend Jesse Jackson on stage at Englewood High School, in your home state of Illinois, and pledged to work with my administration on common ground for New Markets legislation. So let's work together to finish the job.

Last July, I became the first President to visit an Indian reservation since Franklin Roosevelt. That's far too long. In this new century, let's honor our historic responsibility to Native Americans – the first Americans. My budget increases by more than \$1 billion our investment in health care, education, law enforcement, and infrastructure. Indian Country is a new market America should not – and must not – ignore.

We must also fulfill our obligation to our farming communities, the lifeblood of our land. When I signed the farm bill in 1996, I was concerned it would work well in good times but not as well in bad times. In recent years, our family farms have endured droughts and floods and financial crises abroad. Our New Markets Initiative will help them diversify their economic base. But let's also do more than mend the farm safety net – let's strengthen it.

This spring, I will lead a New Markets tour to focus on another challenge: the growing "digital divide" between those who have access to the new economy and those who don't. But the very technology that drives our expansion also creates tools to ensure that everyone, from the city to the farm to the reservation, can join in building our nation. My budget creates 1,000 new technology centers to connect poor communities to the economic mainstream. It also helps mobilize the combined force of public, private, and nonprofit sectors to increase Internet access in low-income areas. Because you can't get in the game until you have the tools to play. ¶

GLOBAL CHANGE AND AMERICAN LEADERSHIP

As we move to master the possibilities of the new economy at home, we must also lead in shaping a global economy that extends our prosperity – and expresses our values.

Our international trade now accounts for one-quarter of our economy. It creates good jobs and brings us new products and technologies. We need to keep that trade growing, and make sure it grows fairly. That means enforcing our own rules to protect our workers, our industries, and our environment. It means making international trade – and the WTO – more open and responsive to concerns about dignity of work and quality of life. And it means remembering that a global economy based on rules is far preferable than one with no rules at all.

That is why China should join the WTO and live under the same trade rules we do. And when it does, America's companies and workers should gain new opportunities in every sector of China's vast market. I ask Congress to lock in this opportunity by passing Permanent Normal Trade Relations status for China. This is a good deal for America. It will level the playing field in U.S.-China trade, and it is a chance to help China along the road to change.

you can pass opportunity to them by passing...

When we engage in the global economy, we are investing in our shared future. Growth from trade is not just vital for us, but for the 1.3 billion people around the world who still live on less than a dollar a day. To help pass opportunity on to them, we should do our part – our full part – to reduce the debts that cripple the world's poorest nations. I ask Congress to support that effort, and to finalize our initiatives to unlock new trade with Africa and the Caribbean Basin. If we stay engaged, we will be helping Americans master the new economy . . . and helping others around the world become masters of ~~their~~ own future.

At a moment when American power is unrivaled and the world is coming together around ideals we have lived by and died for, we have a responsibility to lead. Never forget the Americans who struggled to give us this chance. Never forget that hundreds of millions of people live in peace today because of the Americans who rest in peace in graves marked and unmarked across the world. We have come too far, sacrificed too much, to stop the world and get off now; we must continue to shape the world. So let us look beyond our borders to the big questions that will shape the 21st century world, and look within for the strength to find the answers.

A central question is whether our security will be threatened by regional conflicts, especially those rooted in ethnic and religious tensions, that pose the risk of wider war. With all its amazing advances, our modern world is still bedeviled by our oldest failing – fear of those who are different from us. In too many places, that fear is exploited by unscrupulous leaders trying to cling to power or make brutal war on their neighbors.

America cannot prevent every conflict or stop every outrage. But when our interests and our values are at stake and we can make a difference, we must be peacemakers. For history teaches that all big wars start small, and when human beings anywhere are singled out for destruction because of who they are, it is our common humanity that suffers.

We should be proud that we have helped bring the Middle East closer than ever to comprehensive peace. [Update on Israel-Syria; essential that America does its share].

We should be proud of the role America played in bring peace to Northern Ireland... in helping to end the bloodletting in East Timor...in supporting efforts to end Africa's cruel wars.

And we should be proud of the men and women of our armed forces who made it possible for a million innocent people to return home to Kosovo last year. Now, instead of struggling to defeat something evil, we can focus on building something good: a Europe undivided, democratic and at peace for the first time in history.

With us today are two Americans who've shown how both power and persuasion can serve the cause of peace. When Slobodan Milosevic unleashed ethnic cleansing in Kosovo, Captain John Cherrey was one of the brave airmen who turned the tide – and when an American plane went down, he flew into the teeth of Serbian air defenses to bring its pilot home. When the peace process in Northern Ireland was in trouble, the man who did so much to start it went back one more time to save it, and now, with George Mitchell's help, the people there have a working

government with all parties represented. Captain Cherrey, Senator Mitchell, we honor you with our gratitude, and with our determination to finish the work you helped begin.

A second question is whether our former adversaries, Russia and China, emerge in the coming century as stable, prosperous, democratic partners of the United States.

Today, we face a Russia weakened by the legacy of communism, by economic crisis, by a cruel and futile war in Chechnya. But never forget how much else has changed: 5,000 former Soviet nuclear weapons dismantled; Russian troops serving with us in the Balkans; a constitutional transfer of power from one leader to another for the first time in a 1000 years of Russian history. Russia's long journey to democracy is profoundly important. A generation from now, let it be said we did our part to help.

As for China, we must promote our interest with firmness, but not fear. China cannot buy its stability and stature at the expense of freedom. But let us not isolate China from the global forces empowering its people to seek a better life. We want to see China on the inside, playing by the rules, not on the outside denying them.

A third question for the new century is whether terrorists and hostile nations will acquire the means to undermine our defenses, and make us live in fear again.

Thanks in part to the biggest counter-terrorism operation in our history, the millennial celebrations passed without a violent attack. But this age-old threat, magnified by modern tools of destruction, remains real.

To prevent terrorists and potential adversaries from acquiring deadly weapons, we must work with Russia to keep nuclear weapons secure and continue to reduce our arsenals. We must restrain nuclear and missile programs in North Korea and Iran's, and continuing to prevent Iraq from threatening its neighbors. And we must strength global standards against proliferation. That is why I am committed to working with the Senate on a bipartisan basis to rebuild a consensus for the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty.

We are also developing a system to defend America against missile attack from outlaw nations, while working to preserve the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty with Russia. And my balanced budget devotes \$2 billion to defend America's cyberspace against hackers, criminals and potential adversaries.

A fourth question is whether the stability of the 21st century would will be threatened by a growing gap between rich and poor. We just cannot accept a future in which part of humanity lives on the cutting edge of a new economy, while another lives on the edge of survival.

A large part of the answer is freedom. With the hopeful transitions to democracy in Nigeria and Indonesia, more people won the right to choose their leaders in 1999 than in 1989, the year the Berlin Wall fell. Yet even countries making all the right choices must sometimes struggle to deliver for their people.

We must stand by democracies like Columbia fighting for their lives – and for our lives – against narcotics traffickers. I have proposed a two-year, \$1.6 billion package to help Colombia and I count on your support.

We must stand by impoverished nations held back by debt and disease. My budget calls for a new \$150 million investment in the global fight against AIDS and other infectious killers. And I will call on our partners in the G-7 and around the world to join us in a Millennium initiative to speed the delivery and development of vaccines to countries that might otherwise never be able to afford them. Today, I am proposing a tax credit that will say to private industry – if you develop vaccines for diseases like malaria, AIDS and TB, we will help pay for them, and we will lift millions of lives together.

The final questions are the most important of all: Will America continue to lead? How do we see ourselves and our role for the next century?

In the 20th century, America was thrust into global leadership by circumstance. Now we have to choose whether to shape the world. But it's really no choice at all, not if we want our children to know peace and prosperity and the promise of a better day. We could choose to see our role as a burden. I choose to see it as a blessing, a privilege, a responsibility.

That's why we have reversed the decline in defense spending that began in 1985. We must continue to work together to keep our military the best trained, best equipped in the world. My budget invests in readiness and in 21st century weapons. And it raises salaries for our men and women in uniform.

We must also continue to fund the 1 percent of our budget that supports our international engagement and keeps our soldiers out of war. Last year, you worked with me to do that and to resume paying our UN dues and arrears. Let's do it again this year. And let's remember that building the right kind of global community is vital for a strong, secure American community . . .

RESPONSIBILITY AND CRIME

Here is another heartening statistic. The overall crime rate in America has dropped every year for the past seven years -- the longest continuous decline in crime ever recorded. It happened because we took more responsibility for helping America fight crime, from passing the Brady bill to funding 100,000 new community police officers. Last fall, Congress agreed to support my plan to hire up to 50,000 more police officers, with special help for high-crime neighborhoods. Congress must continue that support this year.

But while we are grateful that America is much safer, no one believes America is safe enough. We have the opportunity and responsibility to make America the safest big country in the world.

We must begin by doing more to keep guns out of the hands of criminals and juveniles. Last year, Congress listened to the gun lobby, rather than the American people, and gave up a chance to require Brady background checks at gun shows and child safety locks for all new

handguns. Passing this common-sense gun safety legislation should be the very next action of this Congress.

But we can and must do more. States require hunters and automobile drivers to have licenses. To reduce firearms accidents and keep guns out of the wrong hands, tonight I propose that states have licenses for gun purchasers as well.

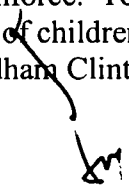
To those who say that instead of strengthening gun laws, we should better enforce gun laws now on the books. I say, we already are. Federal gun crime prosecutions are higher today than in 1992, and are up 25 percent since 1998. But again, we should do more. We must hire more federal and local gun prosecutors, and more ATF agents to crack down on illegal gun traffickers and bad-apple dealers who supply guns to criminals and juveniles. We must supply law enforcement with the tools to trace the origin of every gun used in a crime in America. And we must create a national ballistics network capable of tracing almost any bullet left at a crime scene anywhere in America to the gun of the criminal who fired it.

Listen to this: the accidental gun death rate of children under 15 is nine times higher in the U.S. than in 25 other industrialized nations combined. Technologies now exist that could lead to guns that can only be fired by the adults who own them. It's time to help the gun industry accelerate development of these smart guns. It's time for the gun industry to take responsibility too, and reform the way it does business -- and help bring down gun violence in America.

Another vital measure we can take to reduce the crime rate is to provide more supervision, and demand more responsibility, from the hundreds of thousands of offenders who leave our prisons every year. We know that those on parole or probation who use drugs are [tk]-times more likely than others to commit another crime, but half as likely to do so if they get drug treatment. We must provide them that drug treatment, along with drug testing and a simple bargain: stay clean and you stay free; do drugs and you do more time.

The tragic school shootings in Littleton and elsewhere have been a terrible reminder of how vulnerable our children are to violence—and how much more we must do, at all levels of society, to protect them. Last year, I launched a national grassroots campaign to bring experts and local communities together to identify the most effective responses to youth violence. We also began funding efforts by local communities to develop comprehensive solutions to school violence, and this year we must increase our support of this vital endeavor.

Every parent I know worries about the amount of violence in the media. I believe the entertainment industry should respond to parents concerns. I give the industry credit for accepting my challenge to put voluntary ratings not just on movies but on TV programming and video and Internet games. This year, we must go farther. Let's give parents what they most need: one rating system for all their children's entertainment—a system that is easy to understand and enforce. Tonight, I want to honor the person who has championed this idea, and been a champion of children and families as long as I have known her, your First Lady and my wife: Hillary Rodham Clinton.



some

At its best, popular culture can uplift and educate us even as it entertains us. Joining us tonight is someone whose half-century of work has appealed to the very best in our children – indeed, in all of us. We already miss reading “Peanuts” each day, but Charlie Brown, Lucy, and Snoopy will never be far from our hearts. We thank you, Charles Schulz, for your creations, and for being here with us.

RESPONSIBILITY, OPPORTUNITY, AND THE ENVIRONMENT

We have an abiding responsibility to be wise stewards of our air, water, and land. And because of new technologies, we also have the opportunity to do so in ways that enhance economic growth.

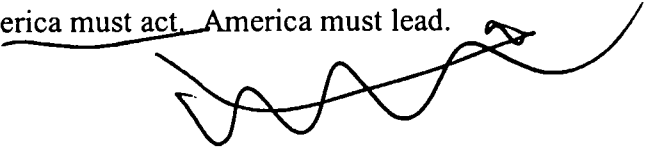
I am grateful for the many opportunities Vice President Gore and I have had to honor this commitment to future generations – and to finally put to rest the long-outdated notion that a strong economy and a healthy environment are incompatible goals. For as our economy has grown ever stronger, our environment has grown ever healthier. We have rid countless neighborhoods of toxic waste; ensured cleaner drinking water for millions of families; taken unprecedented action to improve the air we breathe.

Two weeks ago, I visited the north rim of the Grand Canyon and created three new National Monuments – adding to the tens of millions of acres of forests and deserts and wilderness we are preserving for all Americans, for all time. In the past three months alone, we have acted to preserve pristine backcountry lands in our National Forests and created three new National Monuments – adding to the tens of millions of acres we have protected for all Americans, for all time. Not since the days of Theodore Roosevelt has the nation come together to save so much precious land in the continental United States.

But our population and our cities are growing, and our commitment to conservation must keep growing as well. So tonight, as part of my Lands Legacy Initiative, I propose creating, for the first time, a permanent conservation endowment to save wildlands, protect coastlines, restore wildlife, and preserve small but sacred green spaces. This endowment would provide nearly \$1.5 billion each year – by far the largest, most enduring investment in land preservation ever proposed.

As we rise to protect our land, we must also help other nations that are struggling to protect theirs. The rainforests are the lungs of our planet – and yet they are disappearing at the rate of more than 50 acres a minute. Tonight, I propose a new plan to help developing countries from the Amazon to the Congo Basin strengthen their economies by preserving, rather than destroying, their irreplaceable forests.

The greatest environmental challenge of the new century is global warming. Scientists tell us that the 1990s were the hottest decade of the entire millennium – and that if we fail to heed the writing on the wall, our seas will rise and natural disasters will become more frequent with each passing year. America must act. America must lead.



Tonight, I announce three new efforts to do just that. First, I propose a [\$100 million] initiative to help developing countries adopt clean-energy technologies and avoid the costly trade-offs that we made in the past. With these new technologies, they can expand their economies, improve the lives of their people, and protect the environment at the same time. Second, to strengthen efforts at home, I propose closing the loophole that allows old power plants to foul the air our children breathe and to continue spewing more greenhouse gases than any other source. Third, I call on the auto industry to help move the next generation of vehicles – cars that get 70 or more miles to the gallon – from the laboratory to the showroom floor.

We must put 21st century technology to work in building a 21st century economy in harmony with the environment. We must make sure this country of ours lasts through the ages.

THE OPPORTUNITY AND RESPONSIBILITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

As we enter this new era, it is already clear: technology is making it a millennium of miracles. They promise dramatic improvements in health, in our economy and in our quality of life.

Biotechnology -- and our growing understanding of human genetics and physiology -- promises new treatments for disabilities and real cures for dread diseases. We are now on the brink of sequencing the human genome -- the very code of life -- which could bring cures for cancer, Alzheimer's, and AIDS. The new science of nanotechnology that allows us to manipulate molecules -- even atoms -- could help us detect tumors as small as a single cell, or develop molecular computers that can store on a cube of sugar the entire contents of the Library of Congress.

With longer, healthier, better lives, we are redefining what it means to be old. Consider this: if we delay the onset of Alzheimer's by just five years, right now we could empty half the nursing home beds in America. If we could delay the onset of adult diabetes, we could save \$30 billion in health care costs.

In the future we will have new materials as strong as steel but ten times lighter. Ultra-clean fuel cells for cars whose only byproduct is water clean enough to drink. And computers that can translate spoken English into foreign languages and vice versa as fast as you can speak.

These and other technologies could change the way we work and live as surely as the Internet does today. Fully one-third of our recent growth is due to information technology. And the high-tech jobs it is creating are high-wage jobs -- paying nearly 80 percent more than the typical private-sector job.

For all these reasons, my budget will include a \$3 billion increase in the Twenty-First Century Research Fund. These investments will increase support for biomedical research, nanotechnology, information technology, clean energy and university-based research. This is more than an investment in research and development -- it is an investment in America's future. And we cannot move forward without it.

But it is up to all of us to ensure that this new age of science and technology is also a new age of enlightenment. The advances we seek must be guided by the values we hold dear.

First and foremost, we must ensure that our privacy -- financial and medical -- is protected. Last year, our administration proposed rules to protect every citizen's most sensitive information, his or her medical records. This year, we will finalize those rules. We have also taken steps to protect our people's financial records. But these are only the first steps, as I said when I signed the financial modernization bill into law. I will soon send legislation to the Congress to complete this important unfinished business.

We will also take action to prevent genetic discrimination -- so no employer ever reviews your genetic records along with your resume. We will make sure that the actions of the government itself contain strong privacy protections. And tonight, I want to issue a strong challenge to on-line companies -- to do more to protect their customers' privacy.

Second, we know that our medical professionals work wonders every day; but we also know that their first obligation is to do no harm. My budget makes the largest investment in history to eliminate medical errors and enhance patient safety. Because no American should ever fear that their health care will jeopardize their health.

Nearly forty years ago, as America began its exploration of space, President Kennedy said, "We set sail on this new sea because there is knowledge to be gained ... for the progress of all people. Whether it will become a force for good or ill depends on man." If we take the right steps together, we can be confident that our progress will be a force for good.

COMMUNITY

In 18TK, the great foreign chronicler of America Alexis de Toqueville observed that in America, helping others is not just charity or compassion, it is a sign of good citizenship. De Toqueville was among the first to notice something that is still true of America today: much of what is noblest in our public life occurs outside of government--in the churches, charities, and volunteer groups, to which average citizens contribute money, and their time. We have long relied on this community of active citizenship to meet some of our toughest social challenges. In the 21st Century, we must strengthen and expand this community as never before.

To tap the full potential of philanthropic institutions, we must broaden the base of those who give. Tonight, I propose new tax incentives to do just that. Lower and middle income Americans who give deserve what wealthier Americans can get: a tax deduction for contributions to charity.

We can also do more to bring communities of faith into the circle of service. Faith-based organizations work tirelessly everyday to help Americans fight drug and alcohol abuse and to provide opportunities for young people to get back on the right track or to stay out of trouble in the first place. We can respect the line between church and state and still do more to support the good works of these groups.

We can do even more to elevate the cause of citizen service. When I first ran for this office, I had faith that if we gave our young people the opportunity to serve their communities, they would answer the call. Together, we created AmeriCorps in 1994, and today, over 150,000 AmeriCorps members have served in countless ways, from teaching children to helping the homeless—often working with non-profit organizations.

Today, AmeriCorps graduates, like veterans of our military and the Peace Corps, are an enormous pool of know-how and can-do. We need to tap that resource. Tonight, I propose the creation of the Americorps Reserves to activate former AmeriCorps members in times of crisis including natural disasters.

The AmeriCorps oath concludes with the words: I will get things done. Let us do the same. Let us build on the success of AmeriCorps, fund it fully, and keep it strong for all time.

Of course, the most fundamental responsibility of citizenship begins in the voting booth. More than half of our children live in households where neither parent votes. Too many simply think politics doesn't matter. But it does. So I say to all Americans: whatever your party, whatever your ideology, whatever you do, make your voice heard. Vote.

And this is the year of the census, so you have a unique opportunity to not only stand up and be counted, but to make your voice count.

One of the wonders of our time is the way technology is expanding the community of citizenship, creating new ways for individuals to get involved in the democratic process. A few months ago, I held the first Presidential on-line town meeting. Starting next month, I will launch a series of what I call "Webside Chats"—on-line discussions focused on issues and ideas. We can give more Americans the opportunity to share their views and be a part of our national community.

From the beginning, that community has been enriched by new immigrants. Like those before them, today's new immigrants are renewing the spirit of America. And like those before them, they know they must learn English to reach their full potential.

Demand for English language classes is so high that some states have even resorted to a lottery system to pick students. We must be clear: learning English should be an opportunity available to all -- not a raffle. My budget boosts support for English as a second language and links classes with civics education. So as new immigrants learn English, they can also become fluent in the rights and responsibilities of American life.

We are more diverse than ever before. The face of America is changing. We all know that. The question ahead is not: how will we look? But, what will we be? What will we choose as a community to do with our diversity?

This fall, as a part of our ongoing millennium celebrations, the First Lady and I hosted a discussion with Eric Lander, one of America's leading geneticists, who is with us here tonight. Dr. Lander explained that all human beings genetically are 99.9 percent the same. Science seems

to affirm what faith has always taught us: that the differences between us are nothing compared to the common humanity that unites us all.

We are more united than ever, but we have work to do. We cannot ignore the hatred that spawned such recent incidents as the murder of young Matthew Shepard or the dragging death of James Byrd in Texas. Rather than give into hate, the Byrd family transformed their hate to a new foundation for racial reconciliation. We're honored to have [TK Byrd] with us tonight.

Let me say again, discrimination and violence against anyone because of race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, ancestry or disability is wrong. We must also make it illegal. I ask the Congress once more to pass, without further delay, the Hate Crimes Prevention Act and the Employment Non-Discrimination Act.

And finally, to make the most of our economic and social progress we have made together, we must continue our journey to building One America in the 21st century. That means rededicating ourselves to the ideals of justice and opportunity for all that are at the heart of our democracy. No American should be subjected to discrimination in housing, education, federal contracting or any other aspect of American life. My budget increases funding substantially for civil rights enforcement at the EEOC and the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division—to make sure that protections in law are protections in fact.

Last February, I created the White House Office on One America to coordinate our efforts and help build community partnerships for racial reconciliation. We are reaching out across our nation – from lawyers to religious leaders to corporate leaders to make sure every American can help build the One America of our dreams.

We know there is only one way to achieve that kind of nation—not through machines or money or might. Above all, it must flow from the human spirit. Let us take on the unfinished work of our time. Let us do our part to lift the burden of race and make the promise of America the practice of America.

My fellow Americans, this is the seventh time I have had the privilege of this high moment. Each time I have approached it with great hope and great expectations for our nation. But there is no escaping the fact that tonight is different. For tonight, we stand on the mountaintop of a new millennium. Behind us we see the great expanse of American achievement, and before us, vast frontiers of possibility yet to be explored.

The children of the future will see: generations of Americans earned this moment – earned this opportunity – and we have an obligation to make the most of it. Not even the most far-sighted of our forebears could have predicted that American ingenuity and spirit would lead the world to these unprecedented heights of prosperity and peace. And we can only imagine the heights to which we will climb in this new century.

And so, tonight, whether you are settling in the comfort of today's growing affluence or climbing out of the shadows of yesterday's despair, look up and see that the sun is rising on a new century of hope and possibility in America. Look up and take your place in the procession

of Americans, great and small, whose gifts to the past have brought us to this moment of great promise. Now it is your time. You are our gifts to the future. Together, we can make the next 100 years, America's greatest century.

Thank you, God bless you, and God bless America.

Draft5 01/19/00 11:15pm

**PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON
STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS
UNITED STATES CAPITOL
WASHINGTON, DC
January 27, 2000**

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Vice President, Members of Congress, honored guests, my fellow Americans: Tonight I have the honor of delivering the first State of the Union Address of a new century and a new millennium.

We are fortunate to be alive at this moment in history. Never before has our nation enjoyed, at once, so much prosperity, social progress, and self-confidence with so little internal crisis or so few external threats. Never have our values – of freedom and democracy – been more ascendant around the world. Never have we had such a blessed opportunity – and, therefore, such a profound obligation – to build the more perfect union of our founders' dreams.

We end the 20th Century, and begin the 21st, at a high point in our history. There is no better moment to reflect on our hopes and dreams for our children. No better moment to make big plans for our nation. No better moment than today.

Today we are experiencing a remarkable American renaissance. Twenty million new jobs. The fastest economic growth in more than 30 years; the lowest unemployment rate in 30 years; the lowest poverty rate in 20 years; the first back-to-back budget surpluses in 42 years; the lowest African-American and Hispanic unemployment rate ever; the highest home ownership ever. And next month, America will achieve the longest economic expansion in our nation's history.

My fellow Americans, I stand before you tonight to report that the state of our union is strong – the strongest it has ever been.

We are experiencing not only a renaissance of the American economy, but something even more important: a renewal of the American spirit. Across our land we see a revival of responsibility. . . a renewal of the bonds of community. Who would have thought that in just seven years we could cut the welfare rolls in half, and moved millions from welfare to work? Who would have thought that we could cut crime by one quarter, to its lowest level in more than 30 years? Who would have thought that we could reverse virtually every terrible social trend of the last few decades, from teen pregnancy going down, to adoptions going up? Our social fabric, once frayed, is on the mend.

Tonight it is clear: Our nation is prepared for the new century.

It is also clear that the American people – by the hard work they do every day – deserve the credit, and our thanks. My gratitude also goes to the many of you, here in this chamber, who

have worked with us to make the tough decisions, to put progress above partisanship for the sake of our people. I thank you.

Eight years ago, it was not clear to most Americans that there would be much to celebrate in the year 2000. Our nation was gripped by economic distress, social decline, political stalemate, and discredited government. In 1992, at a time of rising crime, mounting deficits, and high unemployment, a best-selling book asked: “What went wrong?”

But in the best traditions of our nation, of the time of Lincoln and the two Roosevelts, America determined to set things right. We replaced outdated ideologies with bold, new ideas anchored in basic, enduring values: opportunity for all; but also responsibility from all. That’s how you build a community of all.

That’s how we turned decades of record deficits into back-to-back record surpluses – not by denigrating government but by reinventing it, and acting with fiscal discipline. That’s how we have cut crime – not by debating between prevention and punishment but by doing both, and doing them better – passing the Brady Law that has kept guns out of the hands of half a million criminals, and funding 100,000 community police to make our neighborhoods safer. That’s how we have protected our environment – not with old-style regulations but with new approaches and technologies.

That’s how we ended welfare as we knew it – by ending dependency and empowering millions to go to work. That’s how we have helped parents to succeed at work and at home – by offering new approaches, like Family and Medical Leave, which 20 million working Americans have used to care for sick loved ones. That’s how we have opened the doors of college to all – with HOPE scholarship tax cuts, more Pell Grants, and more affordable college loans. That’s how we have engaged 150,000 more young Americans in citizen service – building One America, one community at a time, through AmeriCorps. And that’s how we have seized the opportunities of a global era – by expanding trade with more than 270 new agreements and extending our values around the world.

In 1992, we had a roadmap. In the year 2000, we have results. We have built our bridge to the 21st Century. Now, let us lift our sights and take what Theodore Roosevelt called “the long look ahead.”

Let us look beyond this year, even beyond this decade, and ask ourselves: How will we make the most of this moment of promise? What are our biggest challenges, and how will we meet them?

Tonight, let us pledge:

At a time of unprecedented economic growth, let’s bring prosperity into every community in America.

At a time when our people are living longer than ever, let’s ensure that they are also living better – and healthier.

At a time when technology is transforming our world, let's realize its full promise and make sure our values guide our progress.

At a time of steadily falling crime, let's make America the safest big nation on Earth.

At a time when more families are working families, let's ensure that parents have the tools to succeed at work and at the most important work of all – raising children.

At a time when knowledge is the key to the new economy, let's make sure every child begins school ready to learn and graduates ready to succeed.

At a time when America is growing more diverse than ever, let's finally become what we've always known we can be: one nation, under God, indivisible.

These are big goals. We may not reach them this year. But I believe we will reach them. And we will get there the same way we got here: not in one single leap, but step by step – always building on our progress, moving forward, gaining ground.

Of course, you can't gain ground if you're standing still. And for too long, this Congress has been standing still on some of our most pressing national priorities. Let's get moving. This year, let's strengthen Social Security. Let's modernize Medicare with a voluntary prescription-drug benefit. Let's pass a real patients' bill of rights. Let's pass common-sense gun-safety legislation. Let's pass meaningful hate-crimes legislation. Let's raise the minimum wage.

But that will only be the beginning of our journey.

Tonight, I will propose the first steps into the bold new frontier of the 21st century. I will begin with a New Opportunity Agenda for this new era—an agenda rooted in responsibility, and designed to create a stronger and more inclusive community. At its core is a simple, powerful, fundamental principle: "Opportunity for all."

This new agenda updates an old American value for the Information Age. Two centuries ago, at our nation's founding, opportunity meant, most of all, the freedom to carve a farm and an existence out of the forest frontier. Fifty years ago, opportunity meant a high school education – or even the G.I. Bill – and a job for life. Today, opportunity means something different. It means having a computer and knowing how to use it. It means changing careers and a lifetime of learning. It means mastering the tools and technologies of the new economy, in which ideas and information are the keys to success.

Our first steps into the 21st Century must be the right steps. They must be guided, first and foremost, by our faith that all children can learn and all adults can succeed.

OPPORTUNITY AND RESPONSIBILITY IN EDUCATION

For seven years we have pursued a simple strategy on education: Invest more, and demand more in return. Offer opportunity, but demand responsibility. We have helped nearly every state set higher academic standards for their schools. We are closing in on our goal of connecting every classroom and library in America to the Internet. And for two years in a row, Congress has supported our effort to hire 100,000 new, qualified teachers, to lower class sizes in the early grades. This Congress must continue that support.

With these and other efforts, our students are learning more. Scores on college entrance exams are going up, even as more students from more-diverse backgrounds are taking the test. And some of the most impressive academic gains are happening in schools in some of America's poorest neighborhoods.

Schools like Beaufort [B'YOU-fert] Elementary in South Carolina. Five years ago, Beaufort was classified as one of the state's worst-performing schools. But under a new principal, Ruth Summerlin, Beaufort embraced accountability and higher academic standards, and started afterschool and summer school programs for students who were behind. Today, Beaufort's math and test scores exceed the state average, and local parents are pulling their children out of private schools and putting them in Beaufort. Ruth Summerlin is with us here tonight.

I have visited schools like Beaufort all across America -- schools that have turned themselves around with the same proven formula: greater accountability, higher standards, and the conviction that all students can learn. Unfortunately, there are too many low-performing schools in this country that are not applying these lessons -- schools where, year after year, children fail to get the knowledge and skills they need to make the most of their God-given talents.

Last year, from this podium, I proposed an Education Accountability Act, to fundamentally change the way the federal government invests in our schools -- to support what we know works, and stop supporting what doesn't. This year, I challenge Congress to not only pass that measure, but to make dramatic new investments in ideas we know are working.

We know that quality afterschool and summer school programs boost academic achievement. They also keep children off the street in the hours before parents get home from work, when juvenile crime soars. Tonight, I propose that we double our investment for afterschool and summer school. If we do this, we can give every child in every failing school in America the chance to meet high standards -- and to beat them.

We know that our children who learn early learn best. And since 1993, we've put over 150,000 more children in the successful Head Start pre-school program, and improved the quality of Head Start. Tonight, I propose the largest funding increase for Head Start in history. With this increase, plus greater investment in early learning, we can take the first step toward providing universal pre-school for every four-year-old in America.

We know that if we want our children to learn, we need good teachers and principals. Tonight, I propose new efforts to help states and school districts recruit the best and brightest

people to teaching, train principals as leaders and get rid of bad ones. And we must finish the job of hiring 100,000 qualified teachers to reduce class size.

We know that antiquated classrooms get in the way of learning, and that a third of all schools in America are in serious disrepair – with leaky roofs and antiquated electrical wiring. Tonight, I propose new investments to make immediate, urgent repairs to our schools. I renew my call for a tax credit to help build or modernize 6,000 schools nationwide – so we can take our children out of trailers and put them in modern classrooms. And let's make our high schools safer and better by investing in making them smaller. Let's make sure our kids go to schools where everybody knows their name.

We know that we must turnaround failing schools – or shut them down. Last fall, Congress passed my plan to give districts the resources to do so. This year, let's double that investment. Let's also increase our investment in charter schools, to give parents more choice. And let's give bonuses to states that succeed in making scores go up across the board.

We must also do more to help high school students prepare for, and succeed in, college. We must increase ~~tutoring and mentoring efforts~~, bring advanced placement courses to schools in isolated rural areas via ~~the Internet~~, and offer ~~disadvantaged~~ students the same test prep courses wealthier students use to boost their scores on college entrance exams. [TK: ~~Schumer~~/ college tax ideas]

REWARDING WORK AND STRENGTHENING FAMILIES

It is often said that the foundation of American life is the family. I would add “the working family,” for it is through work that we support our families, and pass on our values to our children. That is why the basic goal of so much of what we have done -- from reforming welfare to raising the minimum wage -- has been to encourage and reward work; to give more opportunities for a better life to all families responsible enough to work for it.

Simply put: When you work hard and play by the rules, good things should follow. To your standard of living, to your savings, to your self-esteem.

One of the most powerful incentives to work has been the Earned Income Tax Credit, a targeted tax cut for low-income working families. The “E” in “EITC” is about earning; about working; about taking responsibility and being rewarded for it. As one of my first actions as President, I asked the Congress to dramatically expand the EITC, and we did. As a result, the EITC helped more than 4.3 million Americans in 1998 work their way into the middle class – double the number in 1993.

Tonight I propose that we expand opportunity by substantially expanding the EITC. We should reduce the marriage penalty for the EITC, making sure that this tax credit rewards marriage, and family, just as it rewards work, and expand the tax credit for families with more than two children. Our plan would provide those families up to \$1,200 more in tax relief. That's enough for the average family to pay three months' mortgage or eight months of health care

coverage. And it's an added incentive to make their way into the middle class. They're working hard for it. We should help them to reach it.

For people who play by the rules, there's something else that should be within reach: their place of work. But two-thirds of new jobs are in the suburbs, far away from many low-income families. In the past two years, I have proposed and Congress has approved 110,000 new housing vouchers – to let more Americans live where opportunities abound. This year, let's more than double that number. If we want people to go to work, they have to be able to get to work.

Wherever they live, working parents need quality child care. Last year, we helped parents provide care for 1.25 million children. But child care should be better, safer, and more affordable. It's what our children deserve and what working parents need. My child care initiative would increase and improve care for 150,000 more children. And it's time we make the child care tax credit refundable to help families who need it most. Parents should be able to balance work and family – not have to choose between them.

Three years ago, we created a new way for hard-pressed working families to provide health care for their children: the Children's Health Insurance Program. In less than a year, enrollment CHIP has doubled, to 2 million children. But we must do more. As Vice President Gore has been saying, if states are looking to insure more children, they should go where the children are – in schools, churches, and child-care centers. And we should take the next step and enroll their parents, too. Nine million of them are eligible, but uninsured. And let's give a real, affordable option to the fastest growing group of uninsured: people between 55 and 65 who lose their coverage. We should allow them to buy into Medicare.

[Tipper Gore, Mental Health – TK]

And let's make sure that men and women get equal pay for equal work. Today, women earn 75 cents for every dollar men earn. That's just not good enough. My budget provides much needed resources to enforce equal pay laws, and to train women for high-paying, high-tech jobs. And we should pass the Paycheck Fairness Act. That will go a long way toward opportunity and dignity for working women.

This year, I am proposing a progressive savings initiative to help low- and moderate-income families work and save for retirement. [policy TK]

Franklin Roosevelt once said that “personal responsibility, guided by collective conscience, is the discipline of democracy.” We have no greater responsibility than to love and support the children we bring into this world. Yet nearly one child in three in America today grows up in a home without a father – and these children are five times more likely to live in poverty than children with both parents at home. I know many single mothers do a magnificent job of raising their children. But their task is made infinitely harder when there is no father to contribute income and love; to share the burdens and joys of parenthood; to teach the boys to be men and the girls to expect respect from men. Four years ago, we made an historic reform of welfare that has helped millions of mothers move from dependency on a welfare check to the

inner cities or rural areas. And we should increase the tax incentives that promote growth in our Empowerment Zones.

Speaker Hastert, it was a powerful moment last November when you joined me and Reverend Jesse Jackson on stage at Englewood High School, in your home state of Illinois, and pledged to work with my administration on common ground for New Markets legislation. So let's work together to finish the job.

Last July, I became the first President to visit an Indian reservation since Franklin Roosevelt. That's far too long. In this new century, let's honor our historic responsibility to Native Americans – the first Americans. My budget increases by more than \$1 billion our investment in health care, education, law enforcement, and infrastructure. Indian Country is a new market America should not – and must not – ignore.

We must also fulfill our obligation to our farming communities, the lifeblood of our land. When I signed the farm bill in 1996, I was concerned it would work well in good times but not as well in bad times. In recent years, our family farms have endured droughts and floods and financial crises abroad. Our New Markets Initiative will help them diversify their economic base. But let's also do more than mend the farm safety net – let's strengthen it.

This spring, I will lead a New Markets tour to focus on another challenge: the growing “digital divide” between those who have access to the new economy and those who don't. But the very technology that drives our expansion also creates tools to ensure that everyone, from the city to the farm to the reservation, can join in building our nation. My budget creates 1,000 new technology centers to connect poor communities to the economic mainstream. It also helps mobilize the combined force of public, private, and nonprofit sectors to increase Internet access in low-income areas. Because you can't get in the game until you have the tools to play.

GLOBAL CHANGE AND AMERICAN LEADERSHIP

As we move to master the possibilities of the new economy at home, we must also lead in shaping a global economy that extends our prosperity – and expresses our values.

Our international trade now accounts for one-quarter of our economy. It creates good jobs and brings us new products and technologies. We need to keep that trade growing, and make sure it grows fairly. That means enforcing our own rules to protect our workers, our industries, and our environment. It means making international trade – and the WTO – more open and responsive to concerns about dignity of work and quality of life. And it means remembering that a global economy based on rules is far preferable than one with no rules at all.

That is why China should join the WTO and live under the same trade rules we do. And when it does, America's companies and workers should gain new opportunities in every sector or China's vast market. I ask Congress to lock in this opportunity by passing Permanent Normal Trade Relations status for China. This is a good deal for America. It will level the playing field in U.S.-China trade, and it is a chance to help China along the road to change.

When we engage in the global economy, we are investing in our shared future. Growth from trade is not just vital for us, but for the 1.3 billion people around the world who still live on less than a dollar a day. To help pass opportunity on to them, we should do our part – our full part – to reduce the debts that cripple the world's poorest nations. I ask Congress to support that effort, and to finalize our initiatives to unlock new trade with Africa and the Caribbean Basin. If we stay engaged, we will be helping Americans master the new economy . . . and helping others around the world become masters of their own future.

At a moment when American power is unrivaled and the world is coming together around ideals we have lived by and died for, we have a responsibility to lead. Never forget the Americans who struggled to give us this chance. Never forget that hundreds of millions of people live in peace today because of the Americans who rest in peace in graves marked and unmarked across the world. We have come too far, sacrificed too much, to stop the world and get off now; we must continue to shape the world. So let us look beyond our borders to the big questions that will shape the 21st century world, and look within for the strength to find the answers.

A central question is whether our security will be threatened by regional conflicts, especially those rooted in ethnic and religious tensions, that pose the risk of wider war. With all its amazing advances, our modern world is still bedeviled by our oldest failing – fear of those who are different from us. In too many places, that fear is exploited by unscrupulous leaders trying to cling to power or make brutal war on their neighbors.

America cannot prevent every conflict or stop every outrage. But when our interests and our values are at stake and we can make a difference, we must be peacemakers. For history teaches that all big wars start small, and when human beings anywhere are singled out for destruction because of who they are, it is our common humanity that suffers.

We should be proud that we have helped bring the Middle East closer than ever to comprehensive peace. [Update on Israel-Syria; essential that America does its share].

We should be proud of the role America played in bring peace to Northern Ireland... in helping to end the bloodletting in East Timor...in supporting efforts to end Africa's cruel wars.

And we should be proud of the men and women of our armed forces who made it possible for a million innocent people to return home to Kosovo last year. Now, instead of struggling to defeat something evil, we can focus on building something good: a Europe undivided, democratic and at peace for the first time in history.

With us today are two Americans who've shown how both power and persuasion can serve the cause of peace. When Slobodan Milosevic unleashed ethnic cleansing in Kosovo, Captain John Cherrey was one of the brave airmen who turned the tide – and when an American plane went down, he flew into the teeth of Serbian air defenses to bring its pilot home. When the peace process in Northern Ireland was in trouble, the man who did so much to start it went back one more time to save it, and now, with George Mitchell's help, the people there have a working

government with all parties represented. Captain Cherrey, Senator Mitchell, we honor you with our gratitude, and with our determination to finish the work you helped begin.

A second question is whether our former adversaries, Russia and China, emerge in the coming century as stable, prosperous, democratic partners of the United States.

Today, we face a Russia weakened by the legacy of communism, by economic crisis, by a cruel and futile war in Chechnya. But never forget how much else has changed: 5,000 former Soviet nuclear weapons dismantled; Russian troops serving with us in the Balkans; a constitutional transfer of power from one leader to another for the first time in a 1000 years of Russian history. Russia's long journey to democracy is profoundly important. A generation from now, let it be said we did our part to help.

As for China, we must promote our interest with firmness, but not fear. China cannot buy its stability and stature at the expense of freedom. But let us not isolate China from the global forces empowering its people to seek a better life. We want to see China on the inside, playing by the rules, not on the outside denying them.

A third question for the new century is whether terrorists and hostile nations will acquire the means to undermine our defenses, and make us live in fear again.

Thanks in part to the biggest counter-terrorism operation in our history, the millennial celebrations passed without a violent attack. But this age-old threat, magnified by modern tools of destruction, remains real.

To prevent terrorists and potential adversaries from acquiring deadly weapons, we must work with Russia to keep nuclear weapons secure and continue to reduce our arsenals. We must restrain nuclear and missile programs in North Korea and Iran's, and continuing to prevent Iraq from threatening its neighbors. And we must strength global standards against proliferation. That is why I am committed to working with the Senate on a bipartisan basis to rebuild a consensus for the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty.

We are also developing a system to defend America against missile attack from outlaw nations, while working to preserve the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty with Russia. And my balanced budget devotes \$2 billion to defend America's cyberspace against hackers, criminals and potential adversaries.

A fourth question is whether the stability of the 21st century would will be threatened by a growing gap between rich and poor. We just cannot accept a future in which part of humanity lives on the cutting edge of a new economy, while another lives on the edge of survival.

A large part of the answer is freedom. With the hopeful transitions to democracy in Nigeria and Indonesia, more people won the right to choose their leaders in 1999 than in 1989, the year the Berlin Wall fell. Yet even countries making all the right choices must sometimes struggle to deliver for their people.

We must stand by democracies like Columbia fighting for their lives – and for our lives – against narcotics traffickers. I have proposed a two-year, \$1.6 billion package to help Colombia and I count on your support.

We must stand by impoverished nations held back by debt and disease. My budget calls for a new \$150 million investment in the global fight against AIDS and other infectious killers. And I will call on our partners in the G-7 and around the world to join us in a Millennium initiative to speed the delivery and development of vaccines to countries that might otherwise never be able to afford them. Today, I am proposing a tax credit that will say to private industry – if you develop vaccines for diseases like malaria, AIDS and TB, we will help pay for them, and we will lift millions of lives together.

The final questions are the most important of all: Will America continue to lead? How do we see ourselves and our role for the next century?

In the 20th century, America was thrust into global leadership by circumstance. Now we have to choose whether to shape the world. But it's really no choice at all, not if we want our children to know peace and prosperity and the promise of a better day. We could choose to see our role as a burden. I choose to see it as a blessing, a privilege, a responsibility.

That's why we have reversed the decline in defense spending that began in 1985. We must continue to work together to keep our military the best trained, best equipped in the world. My budget invests in readiness and in 21st century weapons. And it raises salaries for our men and women in uniform.

We must also continue to fund the 1 percent of our budget that supports our international engagement and keeps our soldiers out of war. Last year, you worked with me to do that and to resume paying our UN dues and arrears. Let's do it again this year. And let's remember that building the right kind of global community is vital for a strong, secure American community . . .

RESPONSIBILITY AND CRIME

Here is another heartening statistic. The overall crime rate in America has dropped every year for the past seven years -- the longest continuous decline in crime ever recorded. It happened because we took more responsibility for helping America fight crime, from passing the Brady bill to funding 100,000 new community police officers. Last fall, Congress agreed to support my plan to hire up to 50,000 more police officers, with special help for high-crime neighborhoods. Congress must continue that support this year.

But while we are grateful that America is much safer, no one believes America is safe enough. We have the opportunity and responsibility to make America the safest big country in the world.

We must begin by doing more to keep guns out of the hands of criminals and juveniles. Last year, Congress listened to the gun lobby, rather than the American people, and gave up a chance to require Brady background checks at gun shows and child safety locks for all new

handguns. Passing this common-sense gun safety legislation should be the very next action of this Congress.

But we can and must do more. States require hunters and automobile drivers to have licenses. To reduce firearms accidents and keep guns out of the wrong hands, tonight I propose that states have licenses for gun purchasers as well.

To those who say that instead of strengthening gun laws, we should better enforce gun laws now on the books. I say, we already are. Federal gun crime prosecutions are higher today than in 1992, and are up 25 percent since 1998. But again, we should do more. We must hire more federal and local gun prosecutors, and more ATF agents to crack down on illegal gun traffickers and bad-apple dealers who supply guns to criminals and juveniles. We must supply law enforcement with the tools to trace the origin of every gun used in a crime in America. And we must create a national ballistics network capable of tracing almost any bullet left at a crime scene anywhere in America to the gun of the criminal who fired it.

Listen to this: the accidental gun death rate of children under 15 is nine times higher in the U.S. than in 25 other industrialized nations combined. Technologies now exist that could lead to guns that can only be fired by the adults who own them. It's time to help the gun industry accelerate development of these smart guns. It's time for the gun industry to take responsibility too, and reform the way it does business -- and help bring down gun violence in America.

Another vital measure we can take to reduce the crime rate is to provide more supervision, and demand more responsibility, from the hundreds of thousands of offenders who leave our prisons every year. We know that those on parole or probation who use drugs are [tk]-times more likely than others to commit another crime, but half as likely to do so if they get drug treatment. We must provide them that drug treatment, along with drug testing and a simple bargain: stay clean and you stay free; do drugs and you do more time.

The tragic school shootings in Littleton and elsewhere have been a terrible reminder of how vulnerable our children are to violence—and how much more we must do, at all levels of society, to protect them. Last year, I launched a national grassroots campaign to bring experts and local communities together to identify the most effective responses to youth violence. We also began funding efforts by local communities to develop comprehensive solutions to school violence, and this year we must increase our support of this vital endeavor.

Every parent I know worries about the amount of violence in the media. I believe the entertainment industry should respond to parents concerns. I give the industry credit for accepting my challenge to put voluntary ratings not just on movies but on TV programming and video and Internet games. This year, we must go farther. Let's give parents what they most need: one rating system for all their children's entertainment—a system that is easy to understand and enforce. Tonight, I want to honor the person who has championed this idea, and been a champion of children and families as long as I have known her, your First Lady and my wife: Hillary Rodham Clinton.

At its best, popular culture can uplift and educate us even as it entertains us. Joining us tonight is someone whose half-century of work has appealed to the very best in our children – indeed, in all of us. We already miss reading “Peanuts” each day, but Charlie Brown, Lucy, and Snoopy will never be far from our hearts. We thank you, Charles Schulz, for your creations, and for being here with us.

RESPONSIBILITY, OPPORTUNITY, AND THE ENVIRONMENT

We have an abiding responsibility to be wise stewards of our air, water, and land. And because of new technologies, we also have the opportunity to do so in ways that enhance economic growth.

I am grateful for the many opportunities Vice President Gore and I have had to honor this commitment to future generations – and to finally put to rest the long-outdated notion that a strong economy and a healthy environment are incompatible goals. For as our economy has grown ever stronger, our environment has grown ever healthier. We have rid countless neighborhoods of toxic waste; ensured cleaner drinking water for millions of families; taken unprecedented action to improve the air we breathe.

Two weeks ago, I visited the north rim of the Grand Canyon and created three new National Monuments – adding to the tens of millions of acres of forests and deserts and wilderness we are preserving for all Americans, for all time. In the past three months alone, we have acted to preserve pristine backcountry lands in our National Forests and created three new National Monuments – adding to the tens of millions of acres we have protected for all Americans, for all time. Not since the days of Theodore Roosevelt has the nation come together to save so much precious land in the continental United States.

But our population and our cities are growing, and our commitment to conservation must keep growing as well. So tonight, as part of my Lands Legacy Initiative, I propose creating, for the first time, a permanent conservation endowment to save wildlands, protect coastlines, restore wildlife, and preserve small but sacred green spaces. This endowment would provide nearly \$1.5 billion each year – by far the largest, most enduring investment in land preservation ever proposed.

As we rise to protect our land, we must also help other nations that are struggling to protect theirs. The rainforests are the lungs of our planet – and yet they are disappearing at the rate of more than 50 acres a minute. Tonight, I propose a new plan to help developing countries from the Amazon to the Congo Basin strengthen their economies by preserving, rather than destroying, their irreplaceable forests.

The greatest environmental challenge of the new century is global warming. Scientists tell us that the 1990s were the hottest decade of the entire millennium – and that if we fail to heed the writing on the wall, our seas will rise and natural disasters will become more frequent with each passing year. America must act. America must lead.

Tonight, I announce three new efforts to do just that. First, I propose a [\$100 million] initiative to help developing countries adopt clean-energy technologies and avoid the costly trade-offs that we made in the past. With these new technologies, they can expand their economies, improve the lives of their people, and protect the environment at the same time. Second, to strengthen efforts at home, I propose closing the loophole that allows old power plants to foul the air our children breathe and to continue spewing more greenhouse gases than any other source. Third, I call on the auto industry to help move the next generation of vehicles – cars that get 70 or more miles to the gallon – from the laboratory to the showroom floor.

We must put 21st century technology to work in building a 21st century economy in harmony with the environment. We must make sure this country of ours lasts through the ages.

THE OPPORTUNITY AND RESPONSIBILITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

As we enter this new era, it is already clear: technology is making it a millennium of miracles. They promise dramatic improvements in health, in our economy and in our quality of life.

Biotechnology -- and our growing understanding of human genetics and physiology -- promises new treatments for disabilities and real cures for dread diseases. We are now on the brink of sequencing the human genome -- the very code of life -- which could bring cures for cancer, Alzheimer's, and AIDS. The new science of nanotechnology that allows us to manipulate molecules -- even atoms -- could help us detect tumors as small as a single cell, or develop molecular computers that can store on a cube of sugar the entire contents of the Library of Congress.

With longer, healthier, better lives, we are redefining what it means to be old. Consider this: if we delay the onset of Alzheimer's by just five years, right now we could empty half the nursing home beds in America. If we could delay the onset of adult diabetes, we could save \$30 billion in health care costs.

In the future we will have new materials as strong as steel but ten times lighter. Ultra-clean fuel cells for cars whose only byproduct is water clean enough to drink. And computers that can translate spoken English into foreign languages and vice versa as fast as you can speak.

These and other technologies could change the way we work and live as surely as the Internet does today. Fully one-third of our recent growth is due to information technology. And the high-tech jobs it is creating are high-wage jobs -- paying nearly 80 percent more than the typical private-sector job.

For all these reasons, my budget will include a \$3 billion increase in the Twenty-First Century Research Fund. These investments will increase support for biomedical research, nanotechnology, information technology, clean energy and university-based research. This is more than an investment in research and development -- it is an investment in America's future. And we cannot move forward without it.

But it is up to all of us to ensure that this new age of science and technology is also a new age of enlightenment. The advances we seek must be guided by the values we hold dear.

First and foremost, we must ensure that our privacy -- financial and medical -- is protected. Last year, our administration proposed rules to protect every citizen's most sensitive information, his or her medical records. This year, we will finalize those rules. We have also taken steps to protect our people's financial records. But these are only the first steps, as I said when I signed the financial modernization bill into law. I will soon send legislation to the Congress to complete this important unfinished business.

We will also take action to prevent genetic discrimination -- so no employer ever reviews your genetic records along with your resume. We will make sure that the actions of the government itself contain strong privacy protections. And tonight, I want to issue a strong challenge to on-line companies -- to do more to protect their customers' privacy.

Second, we know that our medical professionals work wonders every day; but we also know that their first obligation is to do no harm. My budget makes the largest investment in history to eliminate medical errors and enhance patient safety. Because no American should ever fear that their health care will jeopardize their health.

Nearly forty years ago, as America began its exploration of space, President Kennedy said, "We set sail on this new sea because there is knowledge to be gained ... for the progress of all people. Whether it will become a force for good or ill depends on man." If we take the right steps together, we can be confident that our progress will be a force for good.

COMMUNITY

In 18TK, the great foreign chronicler of America Alexis de Toqueville observed that in America, helping others is not just charity or compassion, it is a sign of good citizenship. De Toqueville was among the first to notice something that is still true of America today: much of what is noblest in our public life occurs outside of government--in the churches, charities, and volunteer groups, to which average citizens contribute money, and their time. We have long relied on this community of active citizenship to meet some of our toughest social challenges. In the 21st Century, we must strengthen and expand this community as never before.

To tap the full potential of philanthropic institutions, we must broaden the base of those who give. Tonight, I propose new tax incentives to do just that. Lower and middle income Americans who give deserve what wealthier Americans can get: a tax deduction for contributions to charity.

We can also do more to bring communities of faith into the circle of service. Faith-based organizations work tirelessly everyday to help Americans fight drug and alcohol abuse and to provide opportunities for young people to get back on the right track or to stay out of trouble in the first place. We can respect the line between church and state and still do more to support the good works of these groups.

We can do even more to elevate the cause of citizen service. When I first ran for this office, I had faith that if we gave our young people the opportunity to serve their communities, they would answer the call. Together, we created AmeriCorps in 1994, and today, over 150,000 AmeriCorps members have served in countless ways, from teaching children to helping the homeless—often working with non-profit organizations.

Today, AmeriCorps graduates, like veterans of our military and the Peace Corps, are an enormous pool of know-how and can-do. We need to tap that resource. Tonight, I propose the creation of the Americorps Reserves to activate former AmeriCorps members in times of crisis including natural disasters.

The AmeriCorps oath concludes with the words: I will get things done. Let us do the same. Let us build on the success of AmeriCorps, fund it fully, and keep it strong for all time.

Of course, the most fundamental responsibility of citizenship begins in the voting booth. More than half of our children live in households where neither parent votes. Too many simply think politics doesn't matter. But it does. So I say to all Americans: whatever your party, whatever your ideology, whatever you do, make your voice heard. Vote.

And this is the year of the census, so you have a unique opportunity to not only stand up and be counted, but to make your voice count.

One of the wonders of our time is the way technology is expanding the community of citizenship, creating new ways for individuals to get involved in the democratic process. A few months ago, I held the first Presidential on-line town meeting. Starting next month, I will launch a series of what I call "Webside Chats"—on-line discussions focused on issues and ideas. We can give more Americans the opportunity to share their views and be a part of our national community.

From the beginning, that community has been enriched by new immigrants. Like those before them, today's new immigrants are renewing the spirit of America. And like those before them, they know they must learn English to reach their full potential.

Demand for English language classes is so high that some states have even resorted to a lottery system to pick students. We must be clear: learning English should be an opportunity available to all -- not a raffle. My budget boosts support for English as a second language and links classes with civics education. So as new immigrants learn English, they can also become fluent in the rights and responsibilities of American life.

We are more diverse than ever before. The face of America is changing. We all know that. The question ahead is not: how will we look? But, what will we be? What will we choose as a community to do with our diversity?

This fall, as a part of our ongoing millennium celebrations, the First Lady and I hosted a discussion with Eric Lander, one of America's leading geneticists, who is with us here tonight. Dr. Lander explained that all human beings genetically are 99.9 percent the same. Science seems

to affirm what faith has always taught us: that the differences between us are nothing compared to the common humanity that unites us all.

We are more united than ever, but we have work to do. We cannot ignore the hatred that spawned such recent incidents as the murder of young Matthew Shepard or the dragging death of James Byrd in Texas. Rather than give into hate, the Byrd family transformed their hate to a new foundation for racial reconciliation. We're honored to have [TK Byrd] with us tonight.

Let me say again, discrimination and violence against anyone because of race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, ancestry or disability is wrong. We must also make it illegal. I ask the Congress once more to pass, without further delay, the Hate Crimes Prevention Act and the Employment Non-Discrimination Act.

And finally, to make the most of our economic and social progress we have made together, we must continue our journey to building One America in the 21st century. That means rededicating ourselves to the ideals of justice and opportunity for all that are at the heart of our democracy. No American should be subjected to discrimination in housing, education, federal contracting or any other aspect of American life. My budget increases funding substantially for civil rights enforcement at the EEOC and the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division—to make sure that protections in law are protections in fact.

Last February, I created the White House Office on One America to coordinate our efforts and help build community partnerships for racial reconciliation. We are reaching out across our nation – from lawyers to religious leaders to corporate leaders to make sure every American can help build the One America of our dreams.

We know there is only one way to achieve that kind of nation—not through machines or money or might. Above all, it must flow from the human spirit. Let us take on the unfinished work of our time. Let us do our part to lift the burden of race and make the promise of America the practice of America.

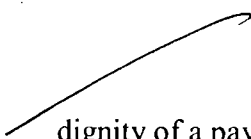
My fellow Americans, this is the seventh time I have had the privilege of this high moment. Each time I have approached it with great hope and great expectations for our nation. But there is no escaping the fact that tonight is different. For tonight, we stand on the mountaintop of a new millennium. Behind us we see the great expanse of American achievement, and before us, vast frontiers of possibility yet to be explored.

The children of the future will see: generations of Americans earned this moment – earned this opportunity – and we have an obligation to make the most of it. Not even the most far-sighted of our forebears could have predicted that American ingenuity and spirit would lead the world to these unprecedented heights of prosperity and peace. And we can only imagine the heights to which we will climb in this new century.

And so, tonight, whether you are settling in the comfort of today's growing affluence or climbing out of the shadows of yesterday's despair, look up and see that the sun is rising on a new century of hope and possibility in America. Look up and take your place in the procession

of Americans, great and small, whose gifts to the past have brought us to this moment of great promise. Now it is your time. You are our gifts to the future. Together, we can make the next 100 years, America's greatest century.

Thank you, God bless you, and God bless America.



dignity of a paycheck. Demanding and promoting responsible fatherhood is the critical next stage of welfare reform.

We have already begun, over the last seven years, to crack down on fathers who fail to pay child support by denying them drivers' licenses and creating a national database to track them across state lines. As a result, child support payments have doubled since 1993. The number of unwed fathers who legally acknowledge their paternity has tripled. And the percentage of children born into unwed homes, after skyrocketing for decades, has begun to level off, and the teenage birth rate is falling.

This is progress. But we must accelerate that progress, step by step, until the day that every father in America takes responsibility for his children. We can begin by toughening measures against fathers who owe child support, such as booting their cars. We can give fathers even more incentive to contribute by allowing more of their child support payments to go directly to their families.

And to absent parents who owe child support, we should say: we'll help you do right by your children, but you have to go to work, and pay them what you owe.

Helping absent parents and others join the culture of work is good not just for them and their families. At a time when businesses across America have labor shortages, it is also good for our economy. Four years ago, I asked corporate leaders to join with us in a partnership to provide jobs to those leaving the welfare rolls. Today, 12,000 companies have hired nearly 650,000 former welfare recipients. Yet these companies need still more new workers. And they say they are increasingly willing to hire from a growing pool of potential labor: the half-million ex-offenders who leave our prisons every year. Tonight, I propose a new initiative to train, counsel, and more carefully monitor ex-offenders so they can become responsible employees, family members, and citizens.

For our economy to continue to enjoy rapid growth without inflation, it is vital that our corporations find not just new workers to hire, but new opportunities to invest, and new markets in which to sell. I believe these new markets exist right here in America—in the inner cities, poor rural areas, and Indian reservations -- places that have not yet been blessed by our nation's prosperity. Over the last six months, I have traveled to many of these places -- joined by many of you -- to shine a spotlight on the enormous opportunities in America's new markets.

Now, more than ever, we have the means to expand the circle of opportunity wide enough to include the men and women at its margins, so that no one who's willing to work is left behind as our nation moves ahead. For business, it's the smart thing to do. And for America, it's the right thing to do. If we don't do it now, when will we ever get around to it?

I believe businesses should have the same incentives to invest in America's new markets as they have to invest in new markets abroad. In this year's budget, I call on Congress to double our New Markets Tax Credit, to spur \$12 billion in new equity capital for our untapped markets. We should also greatly increase funding to help large-scale businesses expand or relocate to our

Insert

Some in Congress are now saying that because this is an election year, we should not try to get things done for the American people. We are here today to reject that view. Nothing, be it a national election or a Washington snow storm, should get in the way of making a college education more affordable for more Americans. Families can't put off their work for a year – and neither should we.

NOTES FROM EDMONDS MEETING WITH AF-1 JANUARY 19, 2000

- Al from talks about oppt, resp, comm – we should steal some of his language to set up our discussion of abandoning false choices of washington. What was our strategy. Al From's third way sentence. [Josh]
- Man on moon; curing cancer. – see millennium, little rock.
- Aging guy (diabetes) in contributors.
- Oppt. Resp. community. Pair oppt and resp. so new oppt and resp agenda. What's the responsibility of the american people to achieve it.
- We should use phrase “ we have build our bridges to 21st century 0-0 now on other side, what will we do w/ it.
- Gee whiz section -- aging paper, living in outer space. Section we know we can't accomplish.
- Telling the story: he wants to talk explicitly that we may have taken incremental steps. Longest journey begins w/ one step. Shown that little steps do matter. We must dream big but back it up w/ concrete steps.
- 10 big challenges: liked some, not others. Making America big goal, but making our progress guided by . maximizing potential of scientific progress, while protecting our values. Long term goals for 21st century. Children, families, aging of America, science and tech,
- science and tech: cure diseases, human genome to prevent disease, make the most of the potential of the internet for info technology.
- Long term goal economy: eradicating poverty. He wants these framed as vision we need to get to. Bigger than securing retirement they deserve.
- Grand goal.
- Unfinished business last congress, new initiatives, and goals that may not be achieved.
- He wants to put in fact that good times may distract us. It would be a terrible mistake; this is moment of the lifetime.
- He spoke to eli segal, re: new approach to gov't. he should list all partnerships that he started. New approach to governing. This is a way of giving american people credit for our success.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

January 19, 2000

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: J. TERRY EDMONDS

SUBJECT: REVISED SOTU DRAFT

Attached please find a revised draft of your 2000 State of the Union Address. This reflects your edits as well as substantial changes recommended by the working group we convened today: Mark Penn, Bob Shrum, Sid Blumenthal, Maria Echaveste, Bruce Reed and others.

We have also restructured the speech, giving it a framework that pairs opportunity with responsibility.

We look forward to working with you to further refine this draft.

Thank you.

To: Terry Edmonds/WHO/EOP@EOP, Joshua S. Gottheimer/WHO/EOP@EOP

Subject: gee wiz science lines

2

No one today can say for sure what our economy will look like in 25 or 50 years, or what as-yet-unimagined technologies will transform our lives. But we do know from history that our nation has prospered most when government invested in new opportunities—from making the Louisiana Purchase to building the Interstate highway system. The American people have always been bold and innovative enough to seize the challenge. We are the kind of people who are drawn to the uncharted land over the next ridge. Who will pack our bags and head out to the latest gold rush, or tinker in our basements for years to invent a product no one else has ever imagined. Today, thanks to wise research investments made by government years ago, the American people have before them the unexplored continent of cyberspace. By continuing to make wise investments in technology, we can open new frontiers for the American people to explore well into the 21st Century.

up! the Enrichment + 2
No F. Feign
Hi + Custer
Hi + int.

Now we
are going to
start in
that will benefit our children

in Congress that because this is not enough time
I read this morning that some are now saying this is an election year—so there won't be enough time to get new initiatives passed this year. We're here today to say that we don't think ~~nothing~~ *nothing* ~~anything~~—(but it elections, campaigns or even snow storms)—ought to get in the way of getting things done for the American people. Families across our nation can't put off their work for a year—and neither should we.

8-2-83

Some in Congress are now saying that because this is an election year, we should ~~not try to pass~~ *not try to pass* get things done for the American people. We are here today to ~~say~~ *say* ~~repel that~~ *repel that* ~~that~~ *that* ~~nothing~~ *nothing*, be it a national election or a Washington snow storm should get in the way of ~~helping make~~ *helping make* making a college education ~~more~~ *more* ~~available~~ *available* for more Americans. Families ~~can't~~ *can't* across our nation can't put off their work for a year—and neither should we.

application of new technologies. That is why my budget will include a \$3 billion increase in the Twenty-First Century Research Fund. These investments will increase support for biomedical research, nanotechnology, information technology, clean energy and university-based research. This is more than an investment in research and development -- it is an investment in America's future. And we cannot move forward without it.

In laboratories and universities across our land, our greatest scientific minds are engineering this new era of advancement. But it is up to all of us to ensure that it is also a new era of enlightenment. The advances we seek must be guided by the values we hold dear.

Most of all, we must ensure that our privacy -- financial and medical -- is protected. Last year, our administration proposed rules to protect every citizen's most sensitive information, his or her medical records. This year, we will finalize those rules. We have also taken steps to protect our people's financial records. But these are only the first steps, as I said when I signed the financial modernization bill into law. I will soon send legislation to the Congress to complete this important unfinished business.

we
should
add
med
error

We will also take action to prevent genetic discrimination -- so no employer ever reviews your genetic records along with your resume. We will make sure that the actions of the government itself contain strong privacy protections. And tonight, I want to issue a strong challenge to on-line companies -- to do more to protect their customers' privacy.

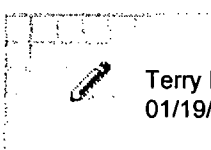
Nearly forty years ago, as America began its exploration of space, President Kennedy said, "We set sail on this new sea because there is knowledge to be gained ... for the progress of all people. Whether it will become a force for good or ill depends on man." If we take the right steps together, we can be confident that our progress will be a force for good. Our investments in science and technology will result not just in a stronger economy, but also in healthier people and a healthier, more unified planet.

Just think what this can mean to our future. With longer, healthier, better lives, we are redefining what it means to be old in the 21st century. We have an opportunity and a responsibility, not only to strengthen and secure Social Security and Medicare, but to create new avenues of energy, service and productivity for the growing numbers of seniors who will enrich America in the coming years.

With new breakthroughs in science and technology, we also have an opportunity and a responsibility to take quantum leaps forward in the areas of health care costs and quality. Consider this: if we delay the onset of Alzheimer's by just five years, right now we could empty half the nursing home beds in America. If we could delay the onset of adult diabetes, we could save \$30 billion in health care costs. [the last 2 sentences need to be checked]

① In the future we will have new materials as strong as steel but ten times lighter. Ultra-clean fuel cells for cars whose only byproduct is water clean enough to drink. And computers that can translate spoken English into foreign languages and vice versa as fast as you can speak. But only if we take the right steps now.

4



Terry Edmonds
01/19/2000 05:23:55 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Joshua S. Gottheimer/WHO/EOP@EOP

cc:

Subject: science & tech to the end

Do you think this works?

Last February, I created the White House Office on One America to coordinate our efforts and help build community partnerships for racial reconciliation. We are reaching out across our nation - from lawyers to religious leaders to corporate leaders to make sure every American can help build the One America of our dreams.

We know there is only one way to achieve that kind of nation—not through machines or money or might. Above all, it must flow from the human spirit. Let us take on the unfinished work of our time. Let us do our part to lift the burden of race and make the promise of America the practice of America.

As we enter this new era, it is already clear: technology is making it a millennium of miracles.

*engine of our
growth &
success
of miracles*

Biotechnology -- and our growing understanding of human genetics and physiology -- promises new treatments for disabilities and real cures for dread diseases. We are now on the brink of sequencing the human genome -- the very code of life -- which could bring cures for cancer, Alzheimer's, and AIDS. *human genome* The new science of nanotechnology that allows us to manipulate molecules -- even atoms -- could help us detect tumors as small as a single cell, or develop molecular computers that can store on a cube of sugar the entire contents of the Library of Congress.

As the Internet expands, a greater and greater fraction of human knowledge will be literally at our fingertips. Our ability to share ideas, experiences and dreams across the boundaries of space and time, can bind all the world's people in a powerful web of wisdom and wealth.

Here in America, science and technology have energized our economy, raising productivity without raising inflation. Fully one-third of our recent growth is due to information technology. The high-tech jobs it spawns are also high-wage jobs, paying nearly 80 percent better than the typical private-sector job.

If we want to advance our prosperity, we have to accelerate the creation and

2000 science → we don't have to wait for it. We will settle as long as we can if we have any more progress.

Crime -- America Safest Big Country in the World

Education – Every child begins school ready to learn and graduates ready to succeed

Work/Family – To make sure people have the tools to succeed at work and at the most important work of all – raising their children

Environment – continue to demonstrate that we can improve the environment and grow the economy both at home and around the world

Aging of America – Do our part to ensure that every older American has the secure retirement that they have earned and deserve.

New Markets -- Bring real prosperity to places that have not seen it. Give business the same incentives to invest in new markets at home they have to invest in new markets abroad

Citizenship/Service – To ensure that the growing spirit of citizenship fills the heart of every American.

Globalization – To seize the opportunities of a more interconnected world to create more freedom, prosperity and peace for ourselves and the world.

One America – Not just tolerate but celebrate our diversity; Our diversity is our greatest strength.



Heather F. Hurlburt

01/17/2000 02:59:56

Record Type: Record

To: Terry Edmonds/WHO/EOP@EOP

cc:

Subject: a foreign policy graph for introduction

This is my fiddling with what he did at the DNC last week -- probably still too long, but trying to add some loft to a list.

We have understood that our country can only be strong and at peace if others around the world are also becoming more secure, more prosperous, and more free. The past decade has been a time of tearing down walls around the world – walls that kept freedom and prosperity out, and walls that kept human beings locked inside. We have done our part to replace the hate and fear that build walls with the understanding and tolerance that sustain peace. We have stood for peace and against hatred in Northern Ireland, Bosnia, Kosovo and the Middle East. We stood for democracy and against tyranny in Nigeria and Indonesia. We stood for economic opportunity and against needless human suffering by forging new trade ties with Asia, Africa and Latin America, and increasing our assistance to the world's poorest countries. We stood for global security and against terror by cutting thousands of nuclear warheads from American and Russian arsenals, and by standing firm against the spread of any weapon of mass destruction. And as we look ahead to the challenges of this new century, we stand with a community of nations united by ideals Americans hold dear – democracy. Market economy. And the rule of law.

NOTES FROM EDMONDS MEETING WITH AF-1 JANUARY 19, 2000

- Al from talks about oppt, resp, comm – we should steal some of his language to set up our discussion of abandoning false choices of washington. What was our strategy. Al From's third way sentence. [Josh]
- Man on moon; curing cancer. – see millennium, little rock.
- Aging guy (diabetes) in contributors.
- Oppt. Resp. community. Pair oppt and resp. so new oppt and resp agenda. What's the responsibility of the american people to achieve it.
- We should use phrase “ we have build our bridges to 21st century 0-0 now on other side, what will we do w/ it.
- Gee whiz section -- aging paper, living in outer space. Section we know we can't accomplish.
- Telling the story: he wants to talk explicitly that we may have taken incremental steps. Longest journey begins w/ one step. Shown that little steps do matter. We must dream big but back it up w/ concrete steps.
- 10 big challenges: liked some, not others. Making America big goal, but making our progress guided by . maximizing potential of scientific progress, while protecting our values. Long term goals for 21st century. Children, families, aging of America, science and tech,
- science and tech: cure diseases, human genome to prevent disease, make the most of the potential of the internet for info technology.
- Long term goal economy: eradicating poverty. He wants these framed as vision we need to get to. Bigger than securing retirement they deserve.
- Grand goal.
- Unfinished business last congress, new initiatives, and goals that may not be achieved.
- He wants to put in fact that good times may distract us. It would be a terrible mistake; this is moment of the lifetime.
- He spoke to eli segal, re: new approach to gov't. he should list all partnerships that he started. New approach to governing. This is a way of giving american people credit for our success.



Jeffrey A. Shesol
01/19/2000 05:21:47 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Terry Edmonds/WHO/EOP@EOP

cc:

Subject: working draft

Draft5 01/19/00 3:00pm

**PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON
STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS
UNITED STATES CAPITOL
WASHINGTON, DC
January 27, 2000**

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Vice President, Members of Congress, honored guests, my fellow Americans: Tonight I have the honor of delivering the first State of the Union Address of a new century and a new millennium.

We are fortunate to be alive at this moment in history. Never before has our nation enjoyed, at once, so much prosperity, social progress, and self-confidence with so little internal crisis or so few external threats. Never have our values – of freedom and democracy – been more ascendant around the world. Never have we had such a blessed opportunity – and, therefore, such a profound obligation – to build the more perfect union of our founders' dreams.

add back 100 years

We have ended the 20th Century, and begun the 21st, at a high point.

From this vista we see a rebirth of the American spirit: a revival of responsibility and a renewal of the bonds of community. Welfare rolls are the smallest in 30 years, and TK million Americans have moved from welfare to work. Crime is at its lowest level in more than 30 years. Teen pregnancy is down; adoptions are up. Our social fabric, once frayed, is on the mend.

We see a reassertion of American leadership: advancing our interests from Kosovo to Northern Ireland to the Middle East; standing strong for democracy, freedom, and peace.

We see a renaissance of the American economy: 20 million new jobs. The fastest economic growth in more than 30 years; the lowest unemployment rate in 30 years; the lowest poverty rate in 20 years; the first back-to-back budget surpluses in 42 years; the lowest African-American and Hispanic unemployment rate ever; the highest home ownership ever. And next month, America will achieve the longest economic expansion in our nation's history.

**PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON
STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS
UNITED STATES CAPITOL
WASHINGTON, DC
January 27, 2000**

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Vice President, Members of Congress, honored guests, my fellow Americans: Tonight I have the honor of delivering the first State of the Union Address of a new century and a new millennium.

We are fortunate to be alive at this moment in history. Never before has our nation enjoyed, at once, so much prosperity, social progress, and self-confidence with so little internal crisis or so few external threats. Never have our values – of freedom and democracy – been more ascendant around the world. Never have we had such a blessed opportunity – and, therefore, such a profound obligation – to build the more perfect union of our founders' dreams.

We end the 20th Century, and begin the 21st, at a high point in our history. There is no better moment to reflect on our hopes and dreams for our children and plans. There is no better moment to make big plans for our nation. There is no better moment than today.

Today we see a rebirth of the American spirit: a revival of responsibility and a renewal of the bonds of community. Welfare rolls are the smallest in 30 years, and TK million Americans have moved from welfare to work. Crime is at its lowest level in more than 30 years. Teen pregnancy is down; adoptions are up. Our social fabric, once frayed, is on the mend.

We see a reassertion of American leadership: advancing our interests from Kosovo to Northern Ireland to the Middle East; standing strong for democracy, freedom, and peace.

We see a renaissance of the American economy: 20 million new jobs. The fastest economic growth in more than 30 years; the lowest unemployment rate in 30 years; the lowest poverty rate in 20 years; the first back-to-back budget surpluses in 42 years; the lowest African-American and Hispanic unemployment rate ever; the highest home ownership ever. And next month, America will achieve the longest economic expansion in our nation's history.

My fellow Americans, I stand before you tonight to report that the state of our union is strong – the strongest it has ever been.

Tonight it is more clear than ever: our nation is prepared for the new century. It is also clear that the American people – and the hard work they do every day – deserve the credit, and our thanks.

My gratitude also goes to the many of you, here in this chamber, who have worked with us to make the tough decisions, to put progress above partisanship for the sake of our people. I thank you.

Eight years ago, it was not clear to most Americans that there would be much to celebrate in the year 2000. Our nation was gripped by economic distress, social decline, political stalemate, and discredited government. It was a time of rising crime, mounting deficits, and high unemployment. In 1992, a best-selling book asked: “What went wrong?”

But in the best traditions of our nation, of the time of Lincoln and the two Roosevelts, America determined to set things right. We freed ourselves of the old false choices. We replaced outdated ideologies with bold, new ideas anchored in basic, enduring values: opportunity for all; but also responsibility from all. That’s how you build a community of all.

And that’s how we ended welfare as we knew it – not by bashing recipients but by empowering millions to go to work. That’s how we turned decades of record deficits into back-to-back record surpluses – not by denigrating government but by reinventing it, and acting with fiscal discipline. That’s how we have cut crime – not by debating between prevention and punishment but by doing both, and doing them better – passing the Brady Law that has kept guns out of the hands of half a million criminals, and funding 100,000 community police to make our neighborhoods safer. That’s how we have protected our environment – not with old-style regulations but with new approaches and technologies.

That’s how we have helped parents to succeed at work and at home – by offering new approaches, like Family and Medical Leave, which 20 million working Americans have used to care for sick loved ones. That’s how we have opened the doors of college to all – with HOPE scholarship tax cuts, more Pell Grants, and more affordable college loans. That’s how we have engaged 150,000 more young Americans in citizen service – building One America, one community at a time, through AmeriCorps. And that’s how we have seized the opportunities of a global era – by expanding trade with more than 270 new agreements and extending our values around the world.

In 1992, we had a roadmap. In the year 2000, we have results. The conditions we have created – and the virtuous cycle we have set in motion – put us in position to realize our founders’ deepest dreams.

We have built our bridge to the 21st Century. So let us lift our sights and take what Theodore Roosevelt called “the long look ahead.”

Let us look beyond this year, even beyond this decade, and ask ourselves: How will we make the most of this moment of promise? What are our biggest challenges, and what must we do to meet them? One thing we must not do is to grow too comfortable or complacent. That would be a big mistake. Because we have some big goals to reach.

At a time of unprecedented economic growth, let's bring prosperity into every community in America.

At a time when our people are living longer than ever, let's ensure that they are also living better – and healthier.

At a time when technology is transforming the ways we work and learn and live, let's ensure that this age of advancement is also a new era of enlightenment. And let's making certain our values guide our progress.

At a time of steadily falling crime, let's make America the safest big nation on Earth.

At a time when more families are working families, let's ensure that parents have the tools to succeed at work and at the most important work of all – raising children.

At a time when knowledge is the key to the new economy, let's make sure every child begins school ready to learn and graduates ready to succeed.

At a time when America is growing more diverse than ever, let's finally become what we've always known we can be: one nation, under God, indivisible.

These are America's greatest goals. I believe we will reach them. And I believe we will get there the way we got here: not in one single leap, but step by step – always building on our progress, moving forward, gaining ground.

Of course, you can't gain ground if you're standing still. And for too long, this Congress has been standing still on some of our most pressing national priorities – from strengthening Social Security to modernizing Medicare with a voluntary prescription-drug benefit; from a real patients' bill of rights to a real raise in the minimum wage; from common-sense gun-safety legislation to meaningful hate-crimes legislation. Last year, we made bipartisan progress toward many of these goals. This year, I urge you to work with me and finish the job. Let's not start the new century without finishing the business of the last one.

But that will only be the beginning of our journey.

Tonight, I will propose the first steps into the bold new frontier of the 21st century. I will begin with a New Opportunity Agenda for this new era—an agenda rooted

in responsibility. I will also propose new ways to create a stronger and more inclusive community...

**PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON
STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS
UNITED STATES CAPITOL
WASHINGTON, DC
January 27, 2000**

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Vice President, Members of Congress, honored guests, my fellow Americans: Tonight I have the honor of delivering the first State of the Union Address of a new century and a new millennium.

We are fortunate to be alive at this moment in history. Never before has our nation enjoyed, at once, so much prosperity, social progress, and self-confidence with so little internal crisis or so few external threats. Never have our values – of freedom and democracy – been more ascendant around the world. Never have we had such a blessed opportunity – and, therefore, such a profound obligation – to build the more perfect union of our founders' dreams.

We end the 20th Century, and begin the 21st, at a high point in our history. There is no better moment to reflect on our hopes and dreams for our children and plans. There is no better moment to make big plans for our nation. There is no better moment than today.

Today we see a rebirth of the American spirit: a revival of responsibility and a renewal of the bonds of community. Welfare rolls are the smallest in 30 years, and TK million Americans have moved from welfare to work. Crime is at its lowest level in more than 30 years. Teen pregnancy is down; adoptions are up. Our social fabric, once frayed, is on the mend.

We see a reassertion of American leadership: advancing our interests from Kosovo to Northern Ireland to the Middle East; standing strong for democracy, freedom, and peace.

We see a renaissance of the American economy: 20 million new jobs. The fastest economic growth in more than 30 years; the lowest unemployment rate in 30 years; the lowest poverty rate in 20 years; the first back-to-back budget surpluses in 42 years; the lowest African-American and Hispanic unemployment rate ever; the highest home ownership ever. And next month, America will achieve the longest economic expansion in our nation's history.

My fellow Americans, I stand before you tonight to report that the state of our union is strong – the strongest it has ever been.

Tonight it is more clear than ever: our nation is prepared for the new century. It is also clear that the American people – and the hard work they do every day – deserve the credit, and our thanks.

My gratitude also goes to the many of you, here in this chamber, who have worked with us to make the tough decisions, to put progress above partisanship for the sake of our people. I thank you.

Eight years ago, it was not clear to most Americans that there would be much to celebrate in the year 2000. Our nation was gripped by economic distress, social decline, political stalemate, and discredited government. It was a time of rising crime, mounting deficits, and high unemployment. In 1992, a best-selling book asked: “What went wrong?”

But in the best traditions of our nation, of the time of Lincoln and the two Roosevelts, America determined to set things right. We freed ourselves of the old false choices. We replaced outdated ideologies with bold, new ideas anchored in basic, enduring values: opportunity for all; but also responsibility from all. That’s how you build a community of all.

And that’s how we ended welfare as we knew it – not by bashing recipients but by empowering millions to go to work. That’s how we turned decades of record deficits into back-to-back record surpluses – not by denigrating government but by reinventing it, and acting with fiscal discipline. That’s how we have cut crime – not by debating between prevention and punishment but by doing both, and doing them better – passing the Brady Law that has kept guns out of the hands of half a million criminals, and funding 100,000 community police to make our neighborhoods safer. That’s how we have protected our environment – not with old-style regulations but with new approaches and technologies.

That’s how we have helped parents to succeed at work and at home – by offering new approaches, like Family and Medical Leave, which 20 million working Americans have used to care for sick loved ones. That’s how we have opened the doors of college to all – with HOPE scholarship tax cuts, more Pell Grants, and more affordable college loans. That’s how we have engaged 150,000 more young Americans in citizen service – building One America, one community at a time, through AmeriCorps. And that’s how we have seized the opportunities of a global era – by expanding trade with more than 270 new agreements and extending our values around the world.

In 1992, we had a roadmap. In the year 2000, we have results. The conditions we have created – and the virtuous cycle we have set in motion – put us in position to realize our founders’ deepest dreams.

We have built our bridge to the 21st Century. So let us lift our sights and take what Theodore Roosevelt called “the long look ahead.”

Let us look beyond this year, even beyond this decade, and ask ourselves: How will we make the most of this moment of promise? What are our biggest challenges, and what must we do to meet them? One thing we must not do is to grow too comfortable or complacent. That would be a big mistake. Because we have some big goals to reach.

At a time of unprecedented economic growth, let's bring prosperity into every community in America.

At a time when our people are living longer than ever, let's ensure that they are also living better – and healthier.

At a time when technology is transforming ~~the ways we work and learn and live,~~ *our world* let's ensure that this age of advancement is also a new era of enlightenment. And let's making certain our values guide our progress.

At a time of steadily falling crime, let's make America the safest big nation on Earth.

At a time when more families are working families, let's ensure that parents have the tools to succeed at work and at the most important work of all – raising children.

At a time when knowledge is the key to the new economy, let's make sure every child begins school ready to learn and graduates ready to succeed.

At a time when America is growing more diverse than ever, let's finally become what we've always known we can be: one nation, under God, indivisible.

big goals. We may not reach them this year.
These are America's greatest goals. I believe we will reach them. And I believe we will get there the way we got here: not in one single leap, but step by step – always building on our progress, moving forward, gaining ground. *But we must begin*

Of course, you can't gain ground if you're standing still. And for too long, this Congress has been standing still on some of our most pressing national priorities – from strengthening Social Security to modernizing Medicare with a voluntary prescription-drug benefit; from a real patients' bill of rights to a real raise in the minimum wage; from common-sense gun-safety legislation to meaningful hate-crimes legislation. Last year, we made bipartisan progress toward many of these goals. This year, I urge you to work with me and finish the job. Let's not start the new century without finishing the business of the last one.

But that will only be the beginning of our journey.

Tonight, I will propose the first steps into the bold new frontier of the 21st century. I will begin with a New Opportunity Agenda for this new era—an agenda rooted

in responsibility. I will also propose new ways to create a stronger and more inclusive community...

**PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON
STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS
UNITED STATES CAPITOL
WASHINGTON, DC
January 27, 2000**

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Vice President, Members of Congress, honored guests, my fellow Americans: Tonight I have the honor of delivering the first State of the Union Address of a new century and a new millennium.

We are fortunate to be alive at this moment in history. Never before has our nation enjoyed, at once, so much prosperity, social progress, and self-confidence with so little internal crisis or so few external threats. Never have our values – of freedom and democracy – been more ascendant around the world. Never have we had such a blessed opportunity – and, therefore, such a profound obligation – to build the more perfect union of our founders' dreams.

We end the 20th Century, and begin the 21st, at a high point in our history. There is no better moment to reflect on our hopes and dreams for our children. No better moment to make big plans for our nation. No better moment than today.

Today we are experiencing a remarkable American renaissance. Twenty million new jobs. The fastest economic growth in more than 30 years; the lowest unemployment rate in 30 years; the lowest poverty rate in 20 years; the first back-to-back budget surpluses in 42 years; the lowest African-American and Hispanic unemployment rate ever; the highest home ownership ever. And next month, America will achieve the longest economic expansion in our nation's history.

My fellow Americans, I stand before you tonight to report that the state of our union is strong – the strongest it has ever been.

We are experiencing not only a renaissance of the American economy, but something even more important: a renewal of the American spirit. Across our land we see a revival of responsibility. . . a renewal of the bonds of community. Who would have thought that in just seven years we could cut the welfare rolls in half, and moved millions from welfare to work? Who would have thought that we could cut crime by one quarter, to its lowest level in more than 30 years? Who would have thought that we could reverse virtually every terrible social trend of the last few decades, from teen pregnancy going down, to adoptions going up? Our social fabric, once frayed, is on the mend.

Tonight it is clear: Our nation is prepared for the new century.

It is also clear that the American people – by the hard work they do every day – deserve the credit, and our thanks. My gratitude also goes to the many of you, here in this chamber, who

have worked with us to make the tough decisions, to put progress above partisanship for the sake of our people. I thank you.

Eight years ago, it was not clear to most Americans that there would be much to celebrate in the year 2000. Our nation was gripped by economic distress, social decline, political stalemate, and discredited government. In 1992, at a time of rising crime, mounting deficits, and high unemployment, a best-selling book asked: “What went wrong?”

But in the best traditions of our nation, of the time of Lincoln and the two Roosevelts, America determined to set things right. We replaced outdated ideologies with bold, new ideas anchored in basic, enduring values: opportunity for all; but also responsibility from all. That’s how you build a community of all.

That’s how we turned decades of record deficits into back-to-back record surpluses – not by denigrating government but by reinventing it, and acting with fiscal discipline. That’s how we have cut crime – not by debating between prevention and punishment but by doing both, and doing them better – passing the Brady Law that has kept guns out of the hands of half a million criminals, and funding 100,000 community police to make our neighborhoods safer. That’s how we have protected our environment – not with old-style regulations but with new approaches and technologies.

That’s how we ended welfare as we knew it – by ending dependency and empowering millions to go to work. That’s how we have helped parents to succeed at work and at home – by offering new approaches, like Family and Medical Leave, which 20 million working Americans have used to care for sick loved ones. That’s how we have opened the doors of college to all – with HOPE scholarship tax cuts, more Pell Grants, and more affordable college loans. That’s how we have engaged 150,000 more young Americans in citizen service – building One America, one community at a time, through AmeriCorps. And that’s how we have seized the opportunities of a global era – by expanding trade with more than 270 new agreements and extending our values around the world.

In 1992, we had a roadmap. In the year 2000, we have results. We have built our bridge to the 21st Century. Now, let us lift our sights and take what Theodore Roosevelt called “the long look ahead.”

Let us look beyond this year, even beyond this decade, and ask ourselves: How will we make the most of this moment of promise? What are our biggest challenges, and how will we meet them?

Tonight, let us pledge:

At a time of unprecedented economic growth, let’s bring prosperity into every community in America.

At a time when our people are living longer than ever, let’s ensure that they are also living better – and healthier.

At a time when technology is transforming our world, let's realize its full promise and make sure our values guide our progress.

At a time of steadily falling crime, let's make America the safest big nation on Earth.

At a time when more families are working families, let's ensure that parents have the tools to succeed at work and at the most important work of all – raising children.

At a time when knowledge is the key to the new economy, let's make sure every child begins school ready to learn and graduates ready to succeed.

At a time when America is growing more diverse than ever, let's finally become what we've always known we can be: one nation, under God, indivisible.

These are big goals. We may not reach them this year. But I believe we will reach them. And we will get there the same way we got here: not in one single leap, but step by step – always building on our progress, moving forward, gaining ground.

Of course, you can't gain ground if you're standing still. And for too long, this Congress has been standing still on some of our most pressing national priorities. Let's get moving. This year, let's strengthen Social Security. Let's modernize Medicare with a voluntary prescription-drug benefit. Let's pass a real patients' bill of rights. Let's pass common-sense gun-safety legislation. Let's pass meaningful hate-crimes legislation. Let's raise the minimum wage.

But that will only be the beginning of our journey.

Tonight, I will propose the first steps into the bold new frontier of the 21st century. I will begin with a New Opportunity Agenda for this new era -- an agenda rooted in responsibility. I will also propose new ways to create a stronger and more inclusive community...

[writing piece intro]

OPPORTUNITY AND RESPONSIBILITY IN EDUCATION

For seven years we have pursued a simple strategy on education: Invest more, and demand more in return. Offer opportunity, but demand responsibility. ~~We have opened the doors of college to all with more Pell grants, more-affordable student loans, education IRAs, and our HOPE scholarship tax cut.~~ We have helped nearly every state set higher academic standards for their schools. We are closing in on our goal of connecting every classroom and library in America to the Internet, ~~with the help of the Vice President's E-rate program.~~ And for two years in a row, Congress has supported our effort to hire 100,000 new, qualified teachers, to lower class sizes in the early grades. This Congress must continue that support.

With these and other efforts, our students are learning more. Scores on college entrance exams are going up, even as more students from more-diverse backgrounds are taking the test.

And some of the most impressive academic gains are happening in schools in some of America's poorest neighborhoods.

Schools like Beaufort [BYOU-fert] Elementary in Beaufort, South Carolina. Five years ago, Beaufort was classified as one of the state's worst-performing schools. But under a new principal, Ruth Summerlin, Beaufort embraced accountability and higher academic standards, and started afterschool and summer school programs for students who were behind. Today, Beaufort's math and test scores exceed the state average, and local parents are pulling their children out of private schools and putting them in Beaufort. Ruth Summerlin is with us here tonight.

I have visited schools like Beaufort all across America--schools that have turned themselves around with the same proven formula: greater accountability, higher standards, and the conviction that all students can learn. Unfortunately, there are too many low-performing schools in this country that are not applying these lessons – schools where, year after year, children fail to get the knowledge and skills they need to make the most of their God-given talents.

Last year, from this podium, I proposed an Education Accountability Act, to fundamentally change the way the federal government invests in our schools – to support what we know works, and stop supporting what doesn't. This year, I challenge Congress to not only pass that measure, but to make dramatic new investments in ideas we know are working.

We know that quality afterschool and summer school programs boost academic achievement. They also keep children off the street in the hours before parents get home from work, when juvenile crime soars. Tonight, I propose that we double our investment for afterschool and summer school. If we do this, we can give every child in every failing school in America the chance to meet high standards – and to beat them.

We know that our children who learn early learn best. And since 1993, we've put over 150,000 more children in the successful Head Start pre-school program, and improved the quality of Head Start. Tonight, I propose the largest funding increase for Head Start in history. With this increase, plus greater investment in early learning, we can take the first step toward providing universal pre-school for every four-year-old in America.

We know that if we want our children to learn, we need good teachers and principals. Tonight, I propose new efforts to help states and school districts recruit the best and brightest people to teaching, train principals as leaders and get rid of bad ones. And we must finish the job of hiring 100,000 qualified teachers to reduce class size.

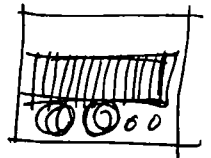
We know that antiquated classrooms get in the way of learning, and that a third of all schools in America are in serious disrepair – with leaky roofs and antiquated electrical wiring. Tonight, I propose new investments to make immediate, urgent repairs to our schools. I renew my call for a tax credit to help build or modernize 6,000 schools nationwide – so we can take our children out of trailers and put them in modern classrooms. And let's make our high schools

safer and better by investing in making them smaller. Let's make sure our kids go to schools where everybody knows their name.

We know that we must turnaround failing schools – or shut them down. Last fall, Congress passed my plan to give districts the resources to do so. This year, let's double that investment. Let's also increase our investment in charter schools, to give parents more choice. And let's give bonuses to states that succeed in making scores go up across the board.

We must also do more to help high school students prepare for, and succeed in, college. We must increase tutoring and mentoring efforts, bring advanced placement courses to schools in isolated rural areas via the Internet, and offer disadvantaged students the same test prep courses wealthier students use to boost their scores on college entrance exams. [TK: Schumer/ college tax ideas]

REWARDING WORK AND STRENGTHENING FAMILIES



It is often said that the foundation of American life is the family. I would add “the working family,” for it is through work that we support our families, and pass on our values to our children. That is why the basic goal of so much of what we have done—from reforming welfare to raising the minimum wage—has been to encourage and reward work; to give more opportunities for a better life to all families responsible enough to work for it.

Simply put: When you work hard and play by the rules, good things should follow. To your standard of living, to your savings, to your self-esteem.

One of the most powerful incentives to work has been the Earned Income Tax Credit, a targeted tax cut for low-income working families. The “E” in “EITC” is about earning; about working; about taking responsibility and being rewarded for it. As one of my first actions as President, I asked the Congress to dramatically expand the EITC, and we did. As a result, the EITC helped more than 4.3 million Americans in 1998 work their way into the middle class – double the number in 1993.

Tonight I propose that we expand opportunity by substantially expanding the EITC. We should reduce the marriage penalty for the EITC, making sure that this tax credit rewards marriage, and family, just as it rewards work, and expand the tax credit for families with more than two children. Our plan would provide those families up to \$1,200 more in tax relief. That's enough for the average family to pay [a full month's mortgage] or for 8 months of health care coverage. And it's an added incentive to make their way into the middle class. They're working hard for it. We should help them to reach it.

For people who play by the rules, there's something else that should be within reach: their place of work. But two-thirds of new jobs are in the suburbs, far away from many low-income families. In the past two years, I have proposed and Congress has approved 110,000 new housing vouchers – to let more Americans live where opportunities abound. This year, let's

more than double that number. If we want people to go to work, they have to be able to get to work.

Wherever they live, working parents need quality child care. Last year, we helped parents provide care for 1.25 million children. But child care should be better, safer, and more affordable. It's what our children deserve and what working parents need. My child care initiative would increase and improve care for 150,000 more children. And it's time we make the child care tax credit refundable to help families who need it most. Parents should be able to balance work and family – not have to choose between them.

We must do everything we can to find families for children who have none. Consider this: in the last four years, we have increased the number of children adopted out of the foster care system by 30 percent. Tens of thousands more children now enjoy the warmth and confidence that comes from having a permanent home. We are improving foster care for the children it serves, and supporting those who turn 18 and leave foster care without a permanent home. Tonight, I want to honor the person who led our Administration's efforts to achieve these goals, someone who has worked tirelessly for children as long as I have known her: our First Lady, Hillary Rodham Clinton.

Three years ago, we created a new way for hard-pressed working families to provide health care for their children: the Children's Health Insurance Program. In less than a year, enrollment CHIP has doubled, to 2 million children. But we must do more. As Vice President Gore has been saying, if states are looking to insure more children, they should go where the children are – in schools, churches, and child-care centers. And we should take the next step and enroll their parents, too. Nine million of them are eligible, but uninsured. And let's give a real, affordable option to the fastest growing group of uninsured: people between 55 and 65 who lose their coverage. We should allow them to buy into Medicare.

Affordable and available care must also be quality care. Our medical professionals work wonders every day; but we also know that their first obligation is to do no harm. My budget makes the largest investment in history to eliminate medical errors and enhance patient safety. Because no American should ever fear that their health care will jeopardize their health.

And let's make sure that men and women get equal pay for equal work. Today, women earn 75 cents for every dollar men earn. That's just not good enough. My budget provides much needed resources to enforce equal pay laws, and to train women for high-paying, high-tech jobs. And we should pass the Paycheck Fairness Act. That will go a long way toward opportunity and dignity for working women.

This year, I am proposing a progressive savings initiative to help low- and moderate-income families work and save for retirement. [policy TK]

Franklin Roosevelt once said that "personal responsibility, guided by collective conscience, is the discipline of democracy." We have no greater responsibility than to love and support the children we bring into this world. Yet nearly one child in three in America today grows up in a home without a father – and these children are five times more likely to live in



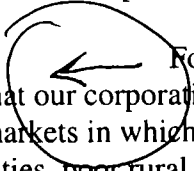
poverty than children with both parents at home. I know many single mothers do a magnificent job of raising their children. But their task is made infinitely harder when there is no father to contribute income and love; to share the burdens and joys of parenthood; to teach the boys to be men and the girls to expect respect from men. Four years ago, we made an historic reform of welfare that has helped millions of mothers move from dependency on a welfare check to the dignity of a paycheck. Demanding and promoting responsible fatherhood is the critical next stage of welfare reform.

We have already begun, over the last seven years, to crack down on fathers who fail to pay child support by denying them drivers' licenses and creating a national database to track them across state lines. As a result, child support payments have doubled since 1993. The number of unwed fathers who legally acknowledge their paternity has tripled. And the percentage of children born into unwed homes, after skyrocketing for decades, has begun to level off, and the teenage birth rate is falling.

This is progress. But we must accelerate that progress, step by step, until the day that every father in America takes responsibility for his children. We can begin by toughening measures against fathers who owe child support, such as booting their cars. We can give fathers even more incentive to contribute by allowing more of their child support payments to go directly to their families.

And to absent parents who owe child support, we should say: we'll help you do right by your children, but you have to go to work, and pay them what you owe.

Helping absent parents and others join the culture of work is good not just for them and their families. At a time when businesses across America have labor shortages, it is also good for our economy. Four years ago, I asked corporate leaders to join with us in a partnership to provide jobs to those leaving the welfare roles. Today, 12,000 companies have hired nearly 650,000 former welfare recipients in good jobs at good wages. Yet these companies need still more new workers. And they say they are increasingly willing to hire from a growing pool of potential labor: the half-million ex-offenders who leave our prisons every year. Tonight, I propose a new initiative to train, counsel, and more carefully monitor ex-offenders so they can become responsible to employers, their families, and their communities.



For our economy to continue to enjoy rapid growth without inflation, it is vital that our corporations find not just new workers to hire, but new opportunities to invest, and new markets in which to sell. I believe these new markets exist right here in America—in the inner cities, poor rural areas, and Indian reservations -- places that have not yet been blessed by our nation's prosperity. Over the last six months, I have traveled to many of these places -- joined by many of you -- to shine a spotlight on the enormous opportunities in America's new markets.

Now, more than ever, we have the means to expand the circle of opportunity wide enough to include the men and women at its margins, so that no one who's willing to work is left behind as our nation moves ahead. For business, it's the smart thing to do. And for America, it's the right thing to do. If we don't do it now, when will we ever get around to it?

I believe businesses should have the same incentives to invest in America's new markets as they have to invest in new markets abroad. In this year's budget, I call on Congress to double our New Markets Tax Credit, to spur \$12 billion in new equity capital for our untapped markets. We should also greatly increase funding to help large-scale businesses expand or relocate to our inner cities or rural areas. And we should increase the tax incentives that promote growth in our Empowerment Zones.

Speaker Hastert, it was a powerful moment last November when you joined me and Reverend Jesse Jackson on stage at Englewood High School, in your home state of Illinois, and pledged to work with my administration on common ground for New Markets legislation. So let's work together to finish the job.

Last July, I became the first President to visit an Indian reservation since Franklin Roosevelt. That's far too long. In this new century, let's honor our historic responsibility to Native Americans – the first Americans. My budget increases by more than \$1 billion our investment in health care, education, law enforcement, and infrastructure. Indian Country is a new market America should not – and must not – ignore.

We must also fulfill our obligation to our farming communities, the lifeblood of our land. When I signed the farm bill in 1996, I was concerned it would work well in good times but not as well in bad times. In recent years, our family farms have endured droughts and floods and financial crises abroad. Our New Markets Initiative will help them diversify their economic base. But let's also do more than mend the farm safety net – let's strengthen it.

This spring, I will lead a New Markets tour to focus on another challenge: the growing "digital divide" between those who have access to the new economy and those who don't. But the very technology that drives our expansion also creates tools to ensure that everyone, from the city to the farm to the reservation, can join in building our nation. My budget creates 1,000 new technology centers to connect poor communities to the economic mainstream. It also helps mobilize the combined force of public, private, and nonprofit sectors to increase Internet access in low-income areas. Because you can't get in the game until you have the tools to play.

GLOBAL CHANGE AND AMERICAN LEADERSHIP

As we move to master the possibilities of the new economy at home, we must also lead in shaping a global economy that extends our prosperity – and expresses our values.

Our international trade now accounts for one-quarter of our economy. It creates good jobs and brings us new products and technologies. We need to keep that trade growing, and make sure it grows fairly. That means enforcing our own rules to protect our workers, our industries, and our environment. It means making international trade – and the WTO – more open and responsive to concerns about dignity of work and quality of life. And it means remembering that a global economy based on rules is far preferable than one with no rules at all.

That is why China should join the WTO and live under the same trade rules we do. And when it does, America's companies and workers should gain new opportunities in every sector or

China's vast market. I ask Congress to lock in this opportunity by passing Permanent Normal Trade Relations status for China. This is a good deal for America. It will level the playing field in U.S.-China trade, and it is a chance to help China along the road to change.

When we engage in the global economy, we are investing in our shared future. Growth from trade is not just vital for us, but for the 1.3 billion people around the world who still live on less than a dollar a day. To help pass opportunity on to them, we should do our part – our full part – to reduce the debts that cripple the world's poorest nations. I ask Congress to support that effort, and to finalize our initiatives to unlock new trade with Africa and the Caribbean Basin. If we stay engaged, we will be helping Americans master the new economy . . . and helping others around the world become masters of their own future.

At a moment when American power is unrivaled and the world is coming together around ideals we have lived by and died for, we have a responsibility to lead. Never forget the Americans who struggled to give us this chance. Never forget that hundreds of millions of people live in peace today because of the Americans who rest in peace in graves marked and unmarked across the world. We have come too far, sacrificed too much, to stop the world and get off now; we must continue to shape the world. So let us look beyond our borders to the big questions that will shape the 21st century world, and look within for the strength to find the answers.

A central question is whether our security will be threatened by regional conflicts, especially those rooted in ethnic and religious tensions, that pose the risk of wider war. With all its amazing advances, our modern world is still bedeviled by our oldest failing – fear of those who are different from us. In too many places, that fear is exploited by unscrupulous leaders trying to cling to power or make brutal war on their neighbors.

America cannot prevent every conflict or stop every outrage. But when our interests and our values are at stake and we can make a difference, we must be peacemakers. For history teaches that all big wars start small, and when human beings anywhere are singled out for destruction because of who they are, it is our common humanity that suffers.

We should be proud that we have helped bring the Middle East closer than ever to comprehensive peace. [Update on Israel-Syria; essential that America does its share].

We should be proud of the role America played in bring peace to Northern Ireland... in helping to end the bloodletting in East Timor...in supporting efforts to end Africa's cruel wars.

And we should be proud of the men and women of our armed forces who made it possible for a million innocent people to return home to Kosovo last year. Now, instead of struggling to defeat something evil, we can focus on building something good: a Europe undivided, democratic and at peace for the first time in history.

With us today are two Americans who've shown how both power and persuasion can serve the cause of peace. When Slobodan Milosevic unleashed ethnic cleansing in Kosovo, Captain John Cherrey was one of the brave airmen who turned the tide – and when an American plane went down, he flew into the teeth of Serbian air defenses to bring its pilot home. When the

peace process in Northern Ireland was in trouble, the man who did so much to start it went back one more time to save it, and now, with George Mitchell's help, the people there have a working government with all parties represented. Captain Cherrey, Senator Mitchell, we honor you with our gratitude, and with our determination to finish the work you helped begin.

A second question is whether our former adversaries, Russia and China, emerge in the coming century as stable, prosperous, democratic partners of the United States.

Today, we face a Russia weakened by the legacy of communism, by economic crisis, by a cruel and futile war in Chechnya. But never forget how much else has changed: 5,000 former Soviet nuclear weapons dismantled; Russian troops serving with us in the Balkans; a constitutional transfer of power from one leader to another for the first time in a 1000 years of Russian history. Russia's long journey to democracy is profoundly important. A generation from now, let it be said we did our part to help.

As for China, we must promote our interest with firmness, but not fear. China cannot buy its stability and stature at the expense of freedom. But let us not isolate China from the global forces empowering its people to seek a better life. We want to see China on the inside, playing by the rules, not on the outside denying them.

A third question for the new century is whether terrorists and hostile nations will acquire the means to undermine our defenses, and make us live in fear again.

Thanks in part to the biggest counter-terrorism operation in our history, the millennial celebrations passed without a violent attack. But this age-old threat, magnified by modern tools of destruction, remains real.

To prevent terrorists and potential adversaries from acquiring deadly weapons, we must work with Russia to keep nuclear weapons secure and continue to reduce our arsenals. We must restrain nuclear and missile programs in North Korea and Iran's, and continuing to prevent Iraq from threatening its neighbors. And we must strength global standards against proliferation. That is why I am committed to working with the Senate on a bipartisan basis to rebuild a consensus for the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty.

We are also developing a system to defend America against missile attack from outlaw nations, while working to preserve the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty with Russia. And my balanced budget devotes \$2 billion to defend America's cyberspace against hackers, criminals and potential adversaries.

A fourth question is whether the stability of the 21st century would will be threatened by a growing gap between rich and poor. We just cannot accept a future in which part of humanity lives on the cutting edge of a new economy, while another lives on the edge of survival.

A large part of the answer is freedom. With the hopeful transitions to democracy in Nigeria and Indonesia, more people won the right to choose their leaders in 1999 than in 1989,

the year the Berlin Wall fell. Yet even countries making all the right choices must sometimes struggle to deliver for their people.

We must stand by democracies like Columbia fighting for their lives – and for our lives – against narcotics traffickers. I have proposed a two-year, \$1.6 billion package to help Colombia and I count on your support.

We must stand by impoverished nations held back by debt and disease. My budget calls for a new \$150 million investment in the global fight against AIDS and other infectious killers. And I will call on our partners in the G-7 and around the world to join us in a Millennium initiative to speed the delivery and development of vaccines to countries that might otherwise never be able to afford them. Today, I am proposing a tax credit that will say to private industry – if you develop vaccines for diseases like malaria, AIDS and TB, we will help pay for them, and we will lift millions of lives together.

The final questions are the most important of all: Will America continue to lead? How do we see ourselves and our role for the next century?

In the 20th century, America was thrust into global leadership by circumstance. Now we have to choose whether to shape the world. But it's really no choice at all, not if we want our children to know peace and prosperity and the promise of a better day. We could choose to see our role as a burden. I choose to see it as a blessing, a privilege, a responsibility.

That's why we have reversed the decline in defense spending that began in 1985. We must continue to work together to keep our military the best trained, best equipped in the world. My budget invests in readiness and in 21st century weapons. And it raises salaries for our men and women in uniform.

We must also continue to fund the 1 percent of our budget that supports our international engagement and keeps our soldiers out of war. Last year, you worked with me to do that and to resume paying our UN dues and arrears. Let's do it again this year. And let's remember that building the right kind of global community is vital for a strong, secure American community . . .

RESPONSIBILITY AND CRIME

Here is another heartening statistic. The overall crime rate in America has dropped every year for the past seven years—the longest continuous decline in crime ever recorded. It happened because we took more responsibility for helping America fight crime, from passing the Brady bill to funding 100,000 new community police officers. Last fall, Congress agreed to support my plan to hire up to 50,000 more police officers, with special help for high-crime neighborhoods. Congress must continue that support this year.

But while we are grateful that ^{*Am much*} ~~is~~ safer, no one believes America is safe enough. We ought to dedicate ourselves to making America the safest big country in the world.

We must begin by doing more to keep guns out of the hands of criminals and juveniles. Last year, Congress listened to the gun lobby, rather than the American people, and gave up a chance to require Brady background checks at gun shows and child safety locks for all new handguns. Passing this common-sense gun safety legislation should be the very next action of this Congress.

But we can and must do more. States require hunters and automobile drivers to have licenses. To reduce firearms accidents and keep guns out of the wrong hands, tonight I propose that states have licenses for gun purchasers as well.

To those who say that instead of strengthening gun laws, we should better enforce gun laws now on the books. I say, we already are. Federal gun crime prosecutions are higher today than in 1992, and are up 25 percent since 1998. But again, we should do more. We must hire more federal and local gun prosecutors, and more ATF agents to crack down on illegal gun traffickers and bad-apple dealers who supply guns to criminals and juveniles. We must supply law enforcement with the tools to trace the origin of every gun used in a crime in America. And we must create a national ballistics network capable of tracing almost any bullet left at a crime scene anywhere in America to the gun of the criminal who fired it.

Listen to this: the accidental gun death rate of children under 15 is nine times higher in the U.S. than in 25 other industrialized nations combined. Technologies now exist that could lead to guns that can only be fired by the adults who own them. It's time to help the gun industry accelerate development of these smart guns. It's time for the gun industry to take responsibility too, and reform the way it does business -- and help bring down gun violence in America.

Another vital measure we can take to reduce the crime rate is to provide more supervision, and demand more responsibility, from the hundreds of thousands of offenders who leave our prisons every year. We know that those on parole or probation who use drugs are [tk]-times more likely than others to commit another crime, but half as likely to do so if they get drug treatment. We must provide them that drug treatment, along with drug testing and a simple bargain: stay clean and you stay free; do drugs and you do more time.

The tragic school shootings in Littleton and elsewhere have been a terrible reminder of how vulnerable our children are to violence—and how much more we must do, at all levels of society, to protect them. Last year, I launched a national grassroots campaign to bring experts and local communities together to identify the most effective responses to youth violence. We also began funding efforts by local communities to develop comprehensive solutions to school violence, and this year we must increase our support of this vital endeavor.

Every parent I know worries about the amount of violence in the media. I believe the entertainment industry should respond to parents concerns. I give the industry credit for accepting my challenge to put voluntary ratings not just on movies but on TV programming and video and Internet games. This year, we must go farther. Let's do as the First Lady has suggested, and give parents what they most need: one rating system for all their children's entertainment—a system that is easy to understand and enforce.

'E'

SCHU

Schulz

At its best, popular culture can uplift and educate us even as it entertains us. Joining us tonight is someone whose half-century of work has appealed to the very best in our children – indeed, in all of us. We already miss reading “Peanuts” each day, but Charlie Brown, Lucy, and Snoopy will never be far from our hearts. We thank you, Charles Schulz, for your creations, and for being here with us.

RESPONSIBILITY, OPPORTUNITY, AND THE ENVIRONMENT

We also have an abiding responsibility to be wise stewards of our air, water, and land. In the sage words of Theodore Roosevelt, “We are not building this country of ours for a day.” We must “make sure it lasts through the ages.”

I am grateful for the many opportunities Vice President Gore and I have had to honor this commitment to future generations – and to finally put to rest the long-outdated notion that a strong economy and a healthy environment are incompatible goals. For as our economy has grown ever stronger, our environment has grown ever healthier. We have rid countless neighborhoods of toxic waste; ensured cleaner drinking water for millions of families; taken unprecedented action to improve the air we breathe. Two weeks ago, I visited the north rim of the Grand Canyon and created three new National Monuments – adding to the tens of millions of acres of forests and deserts and wilderness we are preserving for all Americans, for all time. In the past three months alone, we have acted to preserve pristine backcountry lands in our National Forests and created three new National Monuments – adding to the tens of millions of acres we have protected for all Americans, for all time. Not since the days of Theodore Roosevelt has the nation come together to save so much precious land in the continental United States.

But our population and our cities are growing, and our commitment to conservation must keep growing as well. So tonight, as part of my Lands Legacy Initiative, I propose creating, for the first time, a permanent conservation endowment to save wildlands, protect coastlines, restore wildlife, and preserve small but sacred green spaces. This endowment would provide nearly \$1.5 billion each year – by far the largest, most enduring investment in land preservation ever proposed.

As we rise to protect our land, we must also help other nations that are struggling to protect theirs. The rainforests are the lungs of our planet – and yet they are disappearing at the rate of more than 50 acres a minute. Tonight, I propose a new plan to help developing countries from the Amazon to the Congo Basin strengthen their economies by preserving, rather than destroying, their irreplaceable forests.

The greatest environmental challenge of the new century is global warming. Scientists tell us that the 1990s were the hottest decade of the entire millennium – and that if we fail to heed the writing on the wall, our seas will rise and natural disasters will become more frequent with each passing year. America must act. America must lead.

Tonight, I announce three new efforts to do just that. First, I propose a [\$100 million] initiative to help developing countries adopt clean-energy technologies and avoid the costly trade-offs that we made in the past. With these new technologies, they can expand their

economies, improve the lives of their people, and protect the environment at the same time. Second, to strengthen efforts at home, I propose closing the loophole that allows old power plants to foul the air our children breathe and to continue spewing more greenhouse gases than any other source. Third, I call on the auto industry to help move the next generation of vehicles – cars that get 70 or more miles to the gallon – from the laboratory to the showroom floor.

We must put 21st century technology to work in building a 21st century economy in harmony with the environment. We must make sure this country of ours lasts through the ages.

THE OPPORTUNITY AND RESPONSIBILITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

→ As we enter this new era, it is already clear: technology is making it a millennium of miracles ^{that} promise dramatic improvements in health, in our economy and in our quality of life. *There*

Biotechnology -- and our growing understanding of human genetics and physiology -- promises new treatments for disabilities and real cures for dread diseases. We are now on the brink of sequencing the human genome -- the very code of life -- which could bring cures for cancer, Alzheimer's, and AIDS. The new science of nanotechnology that allows us to manipulate molecules -- even atoms -- could help us detect tumors as small as a single cell, or develop molecular computers that can store on a cube of sugar the entire contents of the Library of Congress.

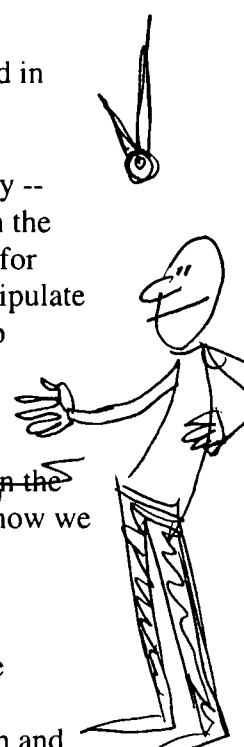
And with longer, healthier, better lives, we are redefining what it means to be old in the 21st century. Consider this: if we delay the onset of Alzheimer's by just five years, right now we could empty half the nursing home beds in America. If we could delay the onset of adult diabetes, we could save \$30 billion in health care costs.

As the Internet expands, a greater and greater fraction of human knowledge will be literally at our fingertips. Our ability to share ideas, experiences and dreams across the boundaries of space and time, can bind all the world's people in a powerful web of wisdom and wealth.

In the future we will have new materials as strong as steel but ten times lighter. Ultra-clean fuel cells for cars whose only byproduct is water clean enough to drink. And computers that can translate spoken English into foreign languages and vice versa as fast as you can speak.

Science and technology are also energizing our economy, raising productivity without raising inflation. Fully one-third of our recent growth is due to information technology. And the high-tech jobs it is creating are high-wage jobs -- paying nearly 80 percent more than the typical private-sector job.

For all these reasons, my budget will include a \$3 billion increase in the Twenty-First Century Research Fund. These investments will increase support for biomedical research, nanotechnology, information technology, clean energy and university-based research. This is



more than an investment in research and development -- it is an investment in America's future. And we cannot move forward without it.

But it is up to all of us to ensure that this new age of science and technology is also a new age of enlightenment. The advances we seek must be guided by the values we hold dear.

First and foremost, we must ensure that our privacy -- financial and medical -- is protected. Last year, our administration proposed rules to protect every citizen's most sensitive information, his or her medical records. This year, we will finalize those rules. We have also taken steps to protect our people's financial records. But these are only the first steps, as I said when I signed the financial modernization bill into law. I will soon send legislation to the Congress to complete this important unfinished business.

CS
2000
1999

We will also take action to prevent genetic discrimination -- so no employer ever reviews your genetic records along with your resume. We will make sure that the actions of the government itself contain strong privacy protections. And tonight, I want to issue a strong challenge to on-line companies -- to do more to protect their customers' privacy.

Second, we know that our medical professionals work wonders every day; but we also know that their first obligation is to do no harm. My budget makes the largest investment in history to eliminate medical errors and enhance patient safety. Because no American should ever fear that their health care will jeopardize their health.

Nearly forty years ago, as America began its exploration of space, President Kennedy said, "We set sail on this new sea because there is knowledge to be gained ... for the progress of all people. Whether it will become a force for good or ill depends on man." If we take the right steps together, we can be confident that our progress will be a force for good.

COMMUNITY

In 18TK, the great foreign chronicler of America Alexis de Toqueville observed that in America, helping others is not just charity or compassion, it is a sign of good citizenship. De Toqueville was among the first to notice something that is still true of America today: much of what is noblest in our public life occurs outside of government--in the churches, charities, and volunteer groups, to which average citizens contribute money, and their time. We have long relied on this community of active citizenship to meet some of our toughest social challenges. In the 21st Century, we must strengthen and expand this community as never before.

To tap the full potential of philanthropic institutions, we must broaden the base of those who give. Tonight, I propose new tax incentives to do just that. Lower and middle income Americans who give deserve what wealthier Americans can get: a tax deduction for contributions to charity.

We can also do more to bring communities of faith into the circle of service. Faith-based organizations work tirelessly everyday to help Americans fight drug and alcohol abuse and to provide opportunities for young people to get back on the right track or to stay out of trouble in

the first place. We can respect the line between church and state and still do more to support the good works of these groups.

We can do even more to elevate the cause of citizen service. When I first ran for this office, I had faith that if we gave our young people the opportunity to serve their communities, they would answer the call. Together, we created AmeriCorps in 1994, and today, over 150,000 AmeriCorps members have served in countless ways, from teaching children to helping the homeless—often working with non-profit organizations.

Today, AmeriCorps graduates, like veteran^s of our military and the Peace Corps, are an enormous pool of know-how and can-do. We need to tap that resource. Tonight, I propose the creation of the Americorps Reserves to activate former AmeriCorps members in times of crisis including natural disasters.

The AmeriCorps oath concludes with the words: I will get things done. Let us do the same. Let us build on the success of AmeriCorps, fund it fully, and keep it strong for all time.

Of course, the most fundamental responsibility of citizenship begins in the voting booth. More than half of our children live in households where neither parent votes. Too many simply think politics doesn't matter. But it does. So I say to all Americans: whatever your party, whatever your ideology, whatever you do, make your voice heard. Vote.

And this is the year of the census, so you have a unique opportunity to not only stand up and be counted, but to make your voice count.

One of the wonders of our time is the way technology is expanding the community of citizenship, creating new ways for individuals to get involved in the democratic process. A few months ago, I held the first Presidential on-line town meeting. Starting next month, I will launch a series of what I call "Webside Chats"—on-line discussions focused on issues and ideas. We can give more Americans the opportunity to share their views and be a part of our national community.

From the beginning, that community has been enriched by new immigrants. Like those before them, today's new immigrants are renewing the spirit of America. And like those before them, they know they must learn English to reach their full potential.

Demand for English language classes is so high that some states have even resorted to a lottery system to pick students. We must be clear: learning English should be an opportunity available to all -- not a raffle. My budget boosts support for English as a second language and links classes with civics and ~~lifeskills~~ education. So as new immigrants learn English, they can also become fluent in the rights and responsibilities of American life.

We are more diverse than ever before. The face of America is changing. We all know that. The question ahead is not: how will we look? But, what will we be? What will we choose as a community to do with our diversity?



ongoing
a part of our mill. celebrations,
we
~~Two years ago, Hillary and I created the White House Millennium Council to help bring Americans together to reflect on where we have been as a nation—who we are—what we want to be. This fall, the First Lady hosted one of America's leading geneticists at a millennium evening discussion at the White House. He affirmed what faith has taught us. He said all humanity, genetically, is 99.9 percent the same. In large ways and small, it is easy to forget that truth. But honest and real differences can only be explored, confronted and worked through, and diversity can only be celebrated when we recognize that the most important fact of life is our common humanity.~~

ignore
~~We are more united than ever, but we have work to do. We cannot turn our backs on the climate of hate that spawned such recent incidents as the murder of young Matthew Shepard or the dragging death of James Byrd in Texas.~~

Let me say again, discrimination and violence against anyone because of race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, ancestry or disability is wrong. We must also make it illegal. I ask the Congress once more to pass, without further delay, the Hate Crimes Prevention Act and the Employment Non-Discrimination Act.

And finally, to make the most of our economic and social progress we have made together, we must continue our journey to building One America in the 21st century. That means rededicating ourselves to the ideals of justice and opportunity for all that are at the heart of our democracy. No American should be subjected to discrimination in housing, education, federal contracting or any other aspect of American life. My budget increases funding substantially for civil rights enforcement at the EEOC and the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division—to make sure that protections in law are protections in fact.

Last February, I created the White House Office on One America to coordinate our efforts and help build community partnerships for racial reconciliation. We are reaching out across our nation – from lawyers to religious leaders to corporate leaders to make sure every American can help build the One America of our dreams.

We know there is only one way to achieve that kind of nation—not through machines or money or might. Above all, it must flow from the human spirit. Let us take on the unfinished work of our time. Let us do our part to lift the burden of race and make the promise of America the practice of America.

My fellow Americans, this is the seventh time I have had the privilege of this high moment. Each time I have approached it with great hope and great expectations for our nation. But there is no escaping the fact that tonight is different. For tonight, we stand on the mountaintop of a new millennium. Behind us we see the great expanse of American achievement, and before us, vast frontiers of possibility yet to be explored.

The children of the future will see that this moment was earned through America's drive for discovery and our enduring quest for freedom and opportunity for all. Not even the most farsighted of our forebears could have predicted that American ingenuity and spirit would lead the world to the unprecedented heights of peace and prosperity that we enjoy today.

And so, tonight, whether you are settling in the comfort of today's growing affluence or climbing out of the shadows of yesterday's despair, look up and see that the sun is rising on a new century of hope and possibility in America. Look up and take your place in the procession of Americans, great and small, whose gifts to the past have brought us to this moment of great promise. Now it is your time. You are our gifts to the future. Together, we can make the next 100 years, America's greatest century.

Thank you, God bless you, and God bless America.

Draft5 01/19/00 6:15pm

**PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON
STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS
UNITED STATES CAPITOL
WASHINGTON, DC
January 27, 2000**

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Vice President, Members of Congress, honored guests, my fellow Americans: Tonight I have the honor of delivering the first State of the Union Address of a new century and a new millennium.

We are fortunate to be alive at this moment in history. Never before has our nation enjoyed, at once, so much prosperity, social progress, and self-confidence with so little internal crisis or so few external threats. Never have our values – of freedom and democracy – been more ascendant around the world. Never have we had such a blessed opportunity – and, therefore, such a profound obligation – to build the more perfect union of our founders' dreams.

We have ended the 20th Century, and begun the 21st, at a high point.

From this vista we see a rebirth of the American spirit: a revival of responsibility and a renewal of the bonds of community. Welfare rolls are the smallest in 30 years, and TK million Americans have moved from welfare to work. Crime is at its lowest level in more than 30 years. Teen pregnancy is down; adoptions are up. Our social fabric, once frayed, is on the mend.

We see a reassertion of American leadership: advancing our interests from Kosovo to Northern Ireland to the Middle East; standing strong for democracy, freedom, and peace.

We see a renaissance of the American economy: 20 million new jobs. The fastest economic growth in more than 30 years; the lowest unemployment rate in 30 years; the lowest poverty rate in 20 years; the first back-to-back budget surpluses in 42 years; the lowest African-American and Hispanic unemployment rate ever; the highest home ownership ever. And next month, America will achieve the longest economic expansion in our nation's history.

My fellow Americans, I stand before you tonight to report that the state of our union is strong – the strongest it has ever been.

Tonight it is clear: our nation is prepared for the new century. Our bridge to the 21st Century is built – built by the hard work of the American people. It is them we can thank for this magnificent moment.

But my gratitude also goes to you – the many of you, here in this chamber, who have worked with us to make the tough decisions, to put progress above partisanship for the sake of our people. I thank you.

Eight years ago, it was not clear to most Americans that there would be much to celebrate in the year 2000. Our nation was gripped by economic distress, social decline, political stalemate, and discredited government. It was a time of rising crime, mounting deficits, and high unemployment. In 1992, a best-selling book asked: “What went wrong?”

But in the best traditions of our nation, in the spirit of the age of Jackson, the age of Lincoln, and the age of both Roosevelts, America determined to set things right. We freed ourselves of the old false choices, replacing outdated ideologies with new ideas, rooted in basic, enduring values: opportunity, responsibility, community.

This is the way we ended welfare as we knew it – not by bashing recipients but by empowering millions to go to work. This is the way we have cut crime – not by debating between prevention and punishment but by doing both, and doing them better. This is the way we turned record deficits into record surpluses – not by crippling government but by reinventing it, and acting with fiscal discipline. One of the key advocates of this approach, and a beloved former member of this institution, is here with us tonight. Thank you, Lloyd Bentsen.

This is the way we have helped parents to succeed at work and at home – not by forcing parents to choose between them, but by offering new approaches like Family and Medical Leave. This is the way we have protected our environment – not with old-style regulations but with new approaches and technologies. This is the way we have seized the opportunities of a global era – not by building walls around us but by bringing them down, expanding trade and extending our values around the world.

In 1992, we had a roadmap. In the year 2000, we have results. The conditions we have created – and the virtuous cycle we have set in motion – put us in position to realize our founders’ deepest dreams. So let us lift our sights and take what Theodore Roosevelt called “the long look ahead.”

From the vantage point we have attained, we should be able to see beyond this year, beyond even this decade, and consider the whole of the 21st Century. What are the big goals we want to reach? How will coming generations of Americans, like those who came before, redefine what is possible, what is achievable?

It's a time of ~~modern economic~~ ^{strength} and confidence
In a century when our economic growth can hit historic new highs, let's bring real prosperity into every community in America.

At a time *is* *in ways we live and work and learn*
~~In a century when technology will transform the world, let's ensure that it is not~~ *the age of advanced*
~~only an age of advancement, but an era of enlightenment, — making sure common values~~ *And it is*
are the guide for scientific progress.

make sure *At a time* *are living*
~~In a century when our people will live longer than ever, let's ensure that they also~~
live better — and healthier.

At a time of falling crime
~~In a century when ...~~, let's make America the safest big nation on Earth.

At a time
~~In a century when~~ more families will be working families, let's ensure that parents
have the tools to succeed at work and at the most important work of all — raising children.

At a time Knowledge is the new
~~In a century when ideas are the key to the information economy, let's make sure~~
every child begins school ready to learn and graduates ready to succeed.

At a time *is*
~~In a century when America will~~ grow more diverse than ever, let's finally become
what we've always known we can be: one nation, under God, indivisible.

These are America's greatest goals. We will reach them not in one single leap,
but step by step — ever moving, ~~ever~~ gaining ground, ~~ever~~ building on our progress.

Of course, you can't move forward if you're standing still. And for too long, this
Congress has been standing still. Let's not start the new century without finishing the
business of the old one.

[unfinished business]

→ But that is only the beginning of our journey.

and Responsibility
Tonight, I will propose the first steps into the bold new frontier of the 21st
century. I will begin with a New Opportunity Agenda for this new era—an agenda rooted
in responsibility, and designed to create a stronger and more inclusive community. At its
core is a simple, powerful, fundamental principle: "Opportunity for all."

I will also ~~propose~~ need we go to
create a stronger & more inclusive
community and will ~~find~~ in the 21st
Century.

My fellow Americans, I stand before you tonight to report that the state of our union is strong – the strongest it has ever been. *Thanks to the hard work of the people, we have built our people.*

Tonight it is clear: our nation is prepared for the new century. ~~Our bridge to the 21st Century is built – built by the hard work of the American people. It is them we can thank for this magnificent moment.~~

At this moment
~~But~~ my gratitude also goes to you – the many of you, here in this chamber, who have worked with us to make the tough decisions, to put progress above partisanship for the sake of our people. I thank you.

Eight years ago, it was not clear to most Americans that there would be much to celebrate in the year 2000. Our nation was gripped by economic distress, social decline, political stalemate, and discredited government. It was a time of rising crime, mounting deficits, and high unemployment. In 1992, a best-selling book asked: “What went wrong?”

But in the best traditions of our nation, in the spirit of the age of Jackson, the age of Lincoln, and the age of both Roosevelts, America determined to set things right. We freed ourselves of the old false choices, replacing outdated ideologies with new ideas, rooted in basic, enduring values: opportunity, responsibility, community.

That's how we
~~This is the way we~~ ended welfare as we knew it – not by bashing recipients but by empowering millions of them to go to work.

That's how we
~~This is the way we have~~ cut crime – not by debating between prevention and punishment but by doing both, and doing them better.

That's how we
~~This is the way we~~ turned record deficits into record surpluses – not by debilitating government, but by reinventing it, and acting with fiscal discipline. One of the key advocates of this approach, and a beloved former member of this institution, is here with us tonight. Thank you, Lloyd Bentsen.

~~This is the way we~~ *also used this new*
have helped parents to succeed at work and at home – not by forcing parents to choose between them, but by offering new approaches like Family and Medical Leave, which 20 million Americans have used to nurse a sick child or relative.

This is the way we have protected our environment – not with old-style regulations but with new approaches and technologies.

This is the way we have seized the opportunities of a global era – not by building walls around us but by bringing them down, expanding trade and extending our values around the world.

In 1992, we had a roadmap. In the year 2000, we have results. The conditions we

have created – and the virtuous cycle we have set in motion – put us in position to realize our founders’ deepest dreams. So let us lift our sights and take what Theodore Roosevelt called “the long look ahead.”