

PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON
STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS
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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 ^{ed} the 20th ^{now} Century, and begin the 21st, at a high point in our history. There is no better moment to ~~reflect~~ ^{get} on our hopes and ~~dreams~~ ^{dreams} for our children. No better moment to make big plans for our nation. ~~No better moment than today.~~

We are ~~experiencing~~ ^{making} a remarkable American ~~renaissance~~ ^{revolution}. 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.~~ ^{as a nation}

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 revival of the American spirit. Across our land we see a renewal of responsibility and 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, sending teen births down seven years in a row and adoptions up by 30 percent? Our social fabric, once frayed, is on the mend.

Tonight it is clear: We have built our bridge to the 21st Century.

As always, most of the credit for what we have achieved belongs to the American people. You pay your taxes, raise your families and live your dreams. You are the body and soul of America. Thanks to you, our nation is prepared for the new century.

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.

In 1993 we passed an historic deficit reduction plan that helped put America on track to the longest economic expansion in our history. Tonight I want to recognize a man who played a key role in that effort, my first Secretary of the Treasury, your former colleague and always a true American statesman, Lloyd Bentsen.

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 gridlock, and discredited government. In 1992, at a time of rising crime, mounting deficits, and high unemployment, the title of a best-selling book asked: "What went wrong?"

But in the best traditions of our nation, from 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, responsibility from all and a community of all 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 by regulating a trade-off between economic growth and environmental progress, but by achieving both.

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, by standing against ethnic and religious hatred and standing up for our values around the world.

In 1992, we had a roadmap. In the year 2000, we have results. Never in my lifetime has our nation known such progress, prosperity and promise. But we must not let our confidence grow into complacency. That would be a big mistake, because we still have a lot of work to do...a lot of goals to reach.

We will reach them if we stay on the path that got us here...building on our progress, step by step, always moving forward, always gaining ground.

our confidence + building
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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. So let's get moving. This year, let's strengthen Social Security, extending its life beyond the Baby Boomer generation. Let's reform and modernize Medicare, lengthening its life and adding 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. And let's raise the minimum wage.

But that will only be the start of our journey. Now we must lift our sights and take what Theodore Roosevelt called "the long look ahead."

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 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 Congress has supported our effort to hire 100,000 new, qualified teachers, to lower class sizes in the early grades, for two years in a row. This year, I call on Congress to make it three in a row.

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-ferd] Elementary in South Carolina. Classified five years ago as one of the state's worst-performing schools, Beaufort embraced accountability and higher academic standards, and started afterschool and summer school programs to help students to meet those standards. 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. The principal of Beaufort, Ruth Summerlin, is with us here tonight. Thank you for proving what all 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~~ *that*.

We know that many states and districts have managed to turn around their worst-performing schools—or shut them down and allow parents to choose other public schools for their children. Last fall, Congress passed my plan to give districts more resources to do the same. This year, let's double that investment. And let's give bonuses to states that succeed in making scores go up across the board.

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 surpass them.*

We know that our children who learn early learn best. ~~And~~ ^{And} since 1993, we've put over 160,000 more children in the successful Head Start pre-school program, and improved the ~~quality of Head Start~~ ^{its}. Tonight, I propose the largest funding increase for Head Start in history. With this ~~increase~~, plus greater investment in early learning, we can build a foundation for 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. Tonight, I propose a \$1 billion initiative to improve teacher quality. It will help states and school districts recruit the best and brightest people into the teaching profession. It will help raise salaries for good teachers, and ensure that bad teachers leave the classroom, swiftly and fairly.

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~~ ^{older} electrical wiring. Tonight, I propose ~~a new~~ ⁱⁿ \$1.3 billion program ~~of grants and interest-free loans~~ to help 5,000 schools make immediate, urgent repairs. 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.

[Let's also increase our investment in charter schools, to give parents more choice.] When I became President, there was just one independent public charter school in all America. Today there are 1,700. My budget assures that we will meet our goal of funding 3,000. ← ?

We know that to make the American Dream more achievable, we must make college more affordable. For seven years, we have taken actions, on a bipartisan basis, to reach that goal: more Pell grants, more-affordable student loans, education IRAs, and our HOPE scholarship tax cut. Our efforts are clearly paying off. Today, 67 percent of students who graduate high school go on to college, up almost 10 percent since 1993.

But as the benefits of a college degree have gone up, so ^{has} ~~have~~ tuitions. Millions of middle class families are feeling the strain, and they need help. We give tax relief to businesses that invest in new plants and equipment. In an economy that increasingly runs on brain power, we should give tax relief to people who are investing in education. My budget provides a landmark \$30-billion college opportunity tax cut, to help millions of middle-class families pay for college. ^{build up} It will give families a tax deduction for up to \$10,000 in tuition costs--providing as much as \$2,800 in much needed tax relief. With this new college opportunity tax cut, plus Hope Scholarships and other aid, we can say that every American who wants to go to college can go.

→ ^{it is for them.} We must also say to middle school students from disadvantaged backgrounds, who may think college is unaffordable, or not for them, that ~~they can go to college~~. The aid is there, if they prepare. Our Gear Up program does that, by matching college student mentors with at-risk middle school students. My budget doubles the number of students who can participate in Gear-Up to 1.4 million young people. It also helps bring advanced placement courses to schools in isolated rural areas via the Internet. It offers disadvantaged students the same test prep courses wealthier students use to boost their scores on college entrance exams. And it provides grants to colleges to help disadvantaged students succeed once they're in college.

REWARDING WORK AND STRENGTHENING FAMILIES

If you have any doubt that by reaching across party lines, we can lift the lives of children, consider this: in the last four years, we have increased the number of children adopted out of the foster care system by 30 percent. That is the first substantial increase in 20 years, and it happened because a bipartisan majority in Congress worked with us and made it happen. Tens of thousands more children now enjoy the warmth and confidence that comes from having a permanent place to call home. And 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: First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton.

It is often said that the foundation of American life is the family. The basic goal of so much of what we have done – from reforming welfare to raising the minimum wage – has been to encourage work and to reward working families; to give more opportunities for a better life to all responsible enough to work for it.

When you work hard and play by the rules, good things should happen. From your standard of living to your self-esteem.

One of the most powerful incentives to work has been the Earned Income Tax Credit, a targeted tax cut for 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 greatly expand the EITC, and we did. As a result, in 1998 alone the EITC helped more than 4.3 million Americans work their way into the middle class – double the number in 1993.

Tonight, I again propose that Congress expand the EITC – substantially. We should reduce the marriage penalty for the EITC, making sure that it rewards marriage, and family, just as it rewards work; and we should 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 typical family to pay three months’ mortgage or eight months of health care coverage. And it’s an added incentive to work their way into the middle class. They’re working hard for it. We should help them to reach it.

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 – rent subsidies to help working families live closer to the workplace. 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.

We must never forget the Americans who have no home but the shelters or the streets. At a time of prosperity, we must dedicate ourselves to ending homelessness and ensuring that all Americans – every veteran, every person with a mental illness, every family – have a place to call home. I want to thank someone who has made that her personal mission. Tipper Gore.

Working parents need quality, affordable child care. Many spend up to a quarter of their income on child care. Last year, we helped parents provide care for about 1.75 million children. But that’s only one tenth of those eligible under federal law. My child care initiative, along with the funds secured in welfare reform, would make child care better, safer, and more affordable for another 650,000 children.

To help millions of parents with moderate incomes, we should expand the child care tax credit. And let’s take the next big step. Let’s make the tax credit refundable for low-income families. For those making \$TK,000 a year – too little to earn a refund today – that means \$TK00 more for child-care costs. Let’s get this done. Parents should be able to balance work and family – not have to choose between them.

From my first days as President, we have worked to give families better access to better health care. In 1993, many workers lost their coverage when they changed or lost their jobs; many lost their jobs when they took time off to care for a sick loved one. And when employers failed to provide it, many working families had nowhere to turn to provide health care for their children.

Working together, we have changed that: by providing family and medical leave; by protecting coverage between jobs; and by passing a Children's Health Insurance Program. In less than a year, enrollment in CHIP has doubled, to 2 million children. Our goal is to cover up to 5 million; so we're well on our way. The more children we cover, the more can begin healthy lives: the childhood immunization rate is now 90 percent, an all-time high.

But there are too many – far too many – uninsured children. To enroll more of them, we should go where they're found – schools, churches, child-care centers – and do it there. And let's take an even bigger step. In four out of five cases, uninsured kids have uninsured parents. So let's do what the Vice President suggests and enroll the parents, too. I propose new legislation to make these parents eligible for the programs that cover their kids.

And let's give a real, affordable option to the fastest growing group of uninsured: people between 55 and 65 who lose their coverage. Last year, I proposed that we let them buy into Medicare. This year, I propose we also give them a tax credit, to make this option more affordable.

tripling
long term
care tax
credit

If we really want to reward work and family, let's make sure that men and women get equal pay for equal work. Working women have made significant strides: more single mothers are working than ever, and the women's unemployment rate is the lowest in 47 years. But women earn only 75 cents for every dollar men earn. That's just not good enough. We should pass the Paycheck Fairness Act. My budget also provides much needed resources to enforce present equal pay laws, and to train more women for high-paying, high-tech jobs.

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

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. 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.

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 pass legislation that says: we'll help you do right by your children, but from now on, you have to go to work, and pay them what you owe.

For our economy to continue enjoying rapid growth without inflation, it is vital that corporations find new workers, new opportunities, and new markets. I believe they 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 potential in America's new markets.

Now, more than ever, we can expand the circle of opportunity 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?

Businesses should have the same incentives to invest in America's new markets as they have to invest in foreign markets. In this year's budget, I call on Congress to double our New Markets Tax Credit, to spur \$15 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. I thank you for your commitment and I pledge to work with you.

Last summer, I became the first President to visit an Indian reservation since Franklin Roosevelt. That's far too long. In this new century, we should honor our historic responsibility to Native Americans – the first Americans. My budget increases our investment in health care, education, law enforcement, and infrastructure by more than \$1 billion. 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 feared it would work well in good times but not in bad – especially for family farmers. In recent years, they have endured droughts, floods and historically low prices due to financial crises abroad. We simply must strengthen the farm safety net.

This spring, I will lead a New Markets tour to focus on the “digital divide” – between those with access to the new economy and those without it. The technology that drives our expansion also creates tools to ensure that everyone, from the city to the farm to the reservation, can share in our prosperity. My budget creates technology centers in 1,000 neighborhoods across our land – connecting poor communities to the economic mainstream. It also mobilizes

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.

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 the dawn of this new century, the economic and military might of America are unrivaled and our ideals are undiminished. These are the measures of American power, as they have long been. But the central reality of our time is globalization – the growing interdependence of our world, a world drawn closer together by new technologies like the Internet and new threats like global warming, or terrorism, that know no borders. Globalization is irreversible. The only way to advance our interests is to stand at the center of every vital global network. In a world ever changing, ever more interconnected and interdependent, America will remain a strong leader by being a good partner – to old allies and to new ones, and to the nations that need a helping hand. We will remain true to what makes us Americans by standing strong for our values. We have an opportunity, and a deep responsibility, to strengthen our own peace and freedom by helping others to secure theirs.

So let us look beyond our borders to the big questions that will define 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 clinging to power or waging brutal war on their neighbors.

America cannot prevent every conflict or stop every outrage. But where we have interests at stake and the chance to make a difference, we must be peacemakers. History teaches that all big wars start small, and when human beings anywhere are singled out for destruction, it is all of humanity that suffers.

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

We should be proud of America's role in bringing peace to Northern Ireland, to East Timor, to Africa . . . in promoting reconciliation between Greece and Turkey . . . in defending human rights and religious freedom.

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 to their homes in Kosovo. 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 have placed power and persuasion in service of peace. When Slobodan Milosevic unloosed terror 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, I asked the man who did so much to start it to go 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, you have our gratitude, and our promise 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, Russia is weakened by the legacy of communism, by economic crisis, by a cruel and futile war in Chechnya. But think 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 thousand years of Russian history. Russia's long journey to democracy may be hard, but it is profoundly important. A generation from now, let it be said we did our part.

In China, we must promote our interests with firmness, but not in fear. China cannot buy stability and stature at the expense of freedom. But let us not isolate China from the global forces that empower its people to seek better lives. [We want to see China on the inside, playing by the rules, not on the outside denying them.]

A third question is whether terrorists and hostile nations will acquire new means to undermine our defenses. For the same technologies that put the likes of cell phones in so many hands will also make weapons of terror, including biological weapons, easier to conceal and to use.

We must meet this threat – not with panic, but with prudence – working with Russia to keep deadly weapons and materials secure and continue to reduce our nuclear arsenals. Restraining nuclear and missile programs in North Korea and Iran. Preventing Iraq from threatening its neighbors. And strengthening global standards against proliferation. I am committed to working with the Senate – and on a bipartisan basis – to build a consensus for the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty.

We are also increasing our preparedness for a potential biological attack, and 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 budget devotes \$2 billion to protect America's cyberspace from hackers, criminals and potential adversaries.

A fourth question is whether the stability of the 21st-Century world will be threatened by a growing gap between rich and poor. We 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 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 struggle to deliver for their people.

We must stand by democracies like Colombia 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. Last year in Africa, AIDS killed ten times as many people as did war. My budget calls for a \$150 million investment in the global fight against this and other global infectious killers. And I will ask the world to join us in a Millennium initiative to speed the delivery and development of vaccines. 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.

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 one 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

Crime in America has dropped every year for the past seven years -- the longest continuous decline 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 do more to keep guns out of the hands of criminals and juveniles. Last year, Congress considered common-sense gun safety legislation to require Brady background checks at gun shows, child safety locks for all new handguns, and a ban on the importation of large-capacity ammunition clips. In the face of enormous pressure from the gun lobby, the Senate, acting with courage and responsibility, and with a tie-breaking vote by the Vice President, passed the legislation. This year, I hope the House will follow suit. The lives of our children depend on it.

Last year, in Littleton, Colorado, we all saw what can happen when guns are allowed to fall into the wrong hands. One of the students killed at Columbine High School was Daniel Mauser, age 15. Daniel was an amazing kid, a straight-A student, a good skier. It is hard, maybe impossible, to comprehend the grief his father Tom must feel. But Tom has translated that grief into action. Earlier this month, he took a leave of absence from his job to advocate for tougher gun safety laws. His presence here is an inspiration. Passing 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 must do more. We should 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. I thank the gun manufacturers who are working with us to find new ways to make sure that the guns they sell don't end up in the wrong hands. Invite the rest of the industry to join us.

Every parent I know worries about violence in the media. 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 programs and video and Internet games. This year, I ask the industry to go farther. Let's do as the First Lady has suggested, and give parents what they need: a single, voluntary rating system for all their children's entertainment -- a system that is easy to understand and enforce.

Every year, hundreds of thousands of offenders leave our prisons and jails, only to wind up back in trouble with the law. More often than not, drugs are a major part of the problem. Two-thirds of ex-offenders who are sent back to prison are drug abusers. But if they get drug treatment, they are up to 70 percent less likely to commit another crime. We must provide them with that treatment, along with regular drug testing and a simple bargain: stay clean and you stay free; do drugs and you do more time. I also propose a new initiative to train, counsel, and more carefully monitor ex-offenders so they can become responsible family members, citizens and employees. This will be good for our communities, and, at a time when businesses across America have labor shortages, good for our economy.

RESPONSIBILITY, OPPORTUNITY, AND THE ENVIRONMENT

We have no higher obligation to our children, and their children, than to be wise stewards of our air, water, and land. I am grateful for the many opportunities the Vice President and I have had to honor this commitment – and to finally put to rest the notion that you can't expand your economy and protect the environment at the same time. For as our economy has grown, we have rid countless neighborhoods of toxic waste; ensured cleaner drinking water for millions of families; and taken unprecedented action to improve the air we breathe.

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 are protecting for all Americans, for all time. Not since the days of Theodore Roosevelt has the nation come together to save so much precious land.

But our communities 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 our wildlands, protect our coastlines, and restore our wildlife. This endowment would provide nearly \$1.5 billion each year – by far the largest, most enduring investment in land preservation ever proposed.

Last year, the Vice President launched a major new effort to help make communities more livable – so children will grow up next to parks rather than parking lots, and parents don't sit in endless traffic when they could be home with their kids. Tonight, we propose to strengthen this initiative with new funding to help communities build advanced transit systems and save farms, parks, and other precious open spaces.

As we work to protect our land, we must help other nations that are struggling to protect theirs. The rainforests are the lungs of our planet – yet they are disappearing at the rate of more than 50 acres a minute. Tonight, I propose a new plan to help countries from the Amazon to the Congo Basin strengthen their economies by preserving, rather than destroying, 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 reduce emissions of greenhouse gases now, the seas will rise and natural disasters will become more frequent with each passing year.

There is no question that we can reduce greenhouse gas pollution. Thanks to remarkable new technologies, I am absolutely convinced that we can do it in ways that will produce more widespread, more sustainable economic growth.

In California, the Departments of Energy and Housing and Urban Development helped build a moderate-income housing community with windows that keep out four or five times as much heat and cold as ordinary windows do. With these and other readily-available technologies, we thought we'd be able to save homeowners 40% off their energy bills. It turns out, they're saving 65%.

Last week, at the Detroit Auto Show, the world got a chance to see cars we've helped automakers develop which use advanced materials and dual fuel sources to get 70 to 80 miles a gallon. Next on the horizon are even more efficient cars powered by fuel cells that emit pure water and nothing else. Before you know it, we'll be producing clean fuels from crops and getting the equivalent of hundreds of miles from a gallon of gas.

To spur these new technologies, I propose giving our families a tax credit worth up to \$3,000 a car when new super-efficient vehicles hit the showroom floor. But let me be clear: We have the technology to make all new cars more fuel efficient right now. I want to thank the automakers who have joined our Partnership for New Generation Vehicles and I ask more of them to join with us to design a new strategy for reversing the recent decline in average fuel economy. You've committed to higher efficiency in Europe. Let's do the same right here at home.

We must also meet this worldwide challenge by giving developing countries the tools to grow in ways that strengthen their economies and protect the environment. So tonight, I propose a new [\$100 million] initiative to help these countries adopt the newest clean-energy technologies. It is simply no longer true that to prosper you have to pollute the air and endanger the Earth. Nations that long for the level of prosperity we take for granted need not follow the old patterns of growth that brought us global warming.

THE OPPORTUNITY AND RESPONSIBILITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Innovations in science and technology are key not only to enhancing the environment. Sustained investments in scientific research will also yield dramatic, almost miraculous, advances in the quality of our lives.

In the last century alone, the life expectancy for the average American has increased from 47 to 77 – thanks to discoveries such as penicillin and the development of vaccines for many childhood diseases. Today, we are on the cusp of far greater advances that will not only help us live far longer but far better. Later this year, researchers will finish the first complete sequence of the human genome – the very blueprint of life. Since so many diseases have a genetic component, the completion of this project will lead to a revolution in our ability to detect, treat, and prevent diseases from Alzheimer's to cancer to AIDS.

Consider the implications: if we delay the onset of Alzheimer's by just five years, we could empty half the nursing home beds in America. If we delay the onset of adult diabetes, we could save \$30 billion in health care costs.

Thanks to the Human Genome Project, scientists have recently identified three of the genes that cause Parkinson's Disease – and they are already working to create precision proteins that will turn off these faulty genes for good. Not if but when they succeed, millions and men and women will be cured of this dread disease – even those whose symptoms have not even begun to emerge.

[insert acknowledgment and introduction of Michael J. Fox]

Advances in science and technology will surely produce quantum leaps in many other fields as well. In the future we will have new materials ten times as strong as steel but ten times lighter ... computers that can translate spoken English into foreign languages and vice versa as fast as you can speak ... devices the size of sugar cubes that can store all the information contained the Library of Congress.

These and other innovations 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 the rise of the Internet and other information technologies. And the high-tech jobs this industry creates are high-wage jobs – paying nearly 80 percent more than the private-sector average.

For all these reasons, my budget will include a \$3 billion increase in the 21st Century Research Fund. We will increase support for biomedical research, information technology, clean energy, and university-based research. We will also help propel NASA's never-ending quest in space. NASA's missions to Mars and into the heavens beyond are just as important to humankind today as the brave sea voyages of the explorers hundreds of years ago. As President Kennedy once said, "We choose to do these things not because they are easy but because they are hard."

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.

If we do all these things, we can ensure that the march of human discovery will only quicken in the century before us -- enhancing life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness in ways that we can only begin to imagine today.

COMMUNITY

At a time when America's cup of prosperity is literally running over, we have a unique opportunity and responsibility to reach out beyond ourselves to help those who are less fortunate and to build stronger communities. The most important work of America occurs outside the realm of government -- in our houses of worship, in our clubs and charities and volunteer groups. Service is not only the way we tackle some of our most pressing problems -- from drug abuse and homelessness, to health care and crime -- it is one of the best ways to come face to face with our common humanity. Who you are and what you look like suddenly become less important when you are working side by side with your neighbors to rebuild a burned down church or prevent a flood or feed the hungry.

So, our long look ahead must include ways to widen the circle of citizen service until it embraces every American. We are already in the midst of a new service movement in America. And one of the things I am most proud of is our efforts to support that movement through greater partnerships with private citizens. This is a new model for government that energizes private resources for noble public ends. Four years ago, I asked corporate leaders to join with us in a partnership to provide jobs to those leaving welfare. Today, 12,000 companies have hired nearly 650,000 former welfare recipients. Over the past seven years we have created many other successful partnerships. To fight drug abuse and AIDS. To teach our young people to read. To Save America's Treasures. To fight teen pregnancy. To fight crime and promote community policing. To promote racial healing and build One America. To prevent youth violence. To create cleaner cars. To help our young people serve.

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.

If we really do believe that charity begins at home, we must do more to reward lower and middle income Americans who tithe and contribute to charities. Right now, only people who earn enough to itemize can claim a tax deduction for charitable contributions. Tonight, I propose new tax incentives that will allow low and middle income citizens to claim that same deduction. That will not only help them, it will be an incentive for more Americans to give to worthy causes.

There are more than twice as many seniors today as there were in 1960. And by 2030, the senior population will grow by over 75 percent. I hope to be one of them. This is a huge army of workers and volunteers who want and deserve a chance to serve.

So, tonight, I say to the seniors across America – you do not ever have to outlive your usefulness. Get involved if you are not and stay involved if you are. It will be good for you and it will be good for America.

We must do more to bring more people into the circle of citizenship and service – from supporting the efforts of faith-based organizations to increasing our investment, as we are this year, in teaching English and civics to new immigrants.

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.

America is demographically undergoing one of the great transformations in our history. Within ten years there will be no majority race in our largest state, California. In a little more than 50 years there will be no majority race in America.

We know what we will look like 50 years from now, the question before us tonight, is what will we be like. As we have seen in other parts of the world and throughout history too many times diversity is used as a force for division, not unity. From Northern Ireland to Africa to Bosnia to the Middle East, we see that racial and ethnic conflict are often the root causes of war and terrorism. And no country is exempt – even our own.

We have to face the fact that in this country, hate is also a catalyst for racial and ethnic violence. The dragging death of a man in Texas because he was black. The murder of a young man in Wyoming because he was gay. In the last year, we have seen the shootings and the killings of African Americans, a Filipino, a Korean American and Jewish children -- all because of racial or ethnic hatred. We must make it clear. This is not the American way. In this country, we not only tolerate our diversity, we celebrate it. And we have to protect it. That is why we must, without further delay, pass the Hate Crimes Prevention Act and the Employment Non-Discrimination Act.

The work of building One America must be the work of every American. 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. That is why 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 religious leaders to corporate leaders to lawyers to make sure every American can help build the One America of our dreams.

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. As we begin a new century, may that truth finally set us free.

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, even larger frontiers of possibility.

So, as we take that long look ahead, we must 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 of record surpluses, let's keep going until America is debt-free for the first time since 1835.

At a time when Americans are living longer than ever, let's keep going and provide quality, affordable healthcare for everyone in America.

At a time when science and technology are transforming our world, let us realize their full promise and make sure our values guide our progress.

At a time when we have proved we can grow the economy and clean the environment, let's prove we can reverse the tide of climate change and leave our planet a safer place.

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 the world is becoming more interdependent, let's continue to be the world's leader for peace, freedom and prosperity.

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.

pledged to

*to be the
the work of
making peace*

*That is the ongoing
Am. rev.*

These are big goals, worthy of a great nation. We will not reach them all this year, or maybe not in the decade ahead. But we will reach them, the way we always have, one step at a time. And always remember, as long as our dreams outweigh our memories, we can be forever young. That is the destiny of America.

And so, tonight, whether you are climbing to new heights of 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 hundred years, America's greatest century.

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

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**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 ended the 20th Century, and now begin the 21st, at a high point in our history. There is no better moment to act on our hopes for our children. No better moment to dream new dreams for our nation.

We are achieving an economic revolution. 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 lowest African-American and Hispanic unemployment rate on record; the highest home ownership ever; the first back-to-back budget surpluses in 42 years – and the largest budget surplus in history.

Next month, as we mark the 107th month of this economic expansion, America will achieve the longest period of prosperity in our entire history.

Our economic revolution has been matched by a remarkable revival of the American spirit. 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, sending teen births down seven years in a row and adoptions up by 30 percent? Seven million of our fellow citizens have broken the bonds of poverty. Seven million Americans have moved from welfare to work.

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

As always, most of the credit for what we have achieved belongs to the American people. You work every day to pay your taxes, raise your families and live your dreams. Thanks to you, our nation is prepared for the new century.

My gratitude also goes to all of you 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.

In 1993 we passed an historic deficit reduction plan that helped put America on track to the longest economic expansion in our history. Tonight I want to recognize a man who played a key role in that effort, my first Secretary of the Treasury, your former colleague and always a true American statesman, Lloyd Bentsen.

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 gridlock, and discredited government. In 1992, at a time of rising crime, mounting deficits, and high unemployment, the title of a best-selling book asked: "What went wrong?"

But in the best traditions of our nation, from 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, responsibility from all and a community of all Americans.

That's how we turned decades of record deficits into back-to-back record surpluses – not by discarding government but by reinventing it, and moving forward with fiscal discipline. That's how we have cut crime – not by debating prevention or 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 by pitting economic growth against environmental progress, but by pursuing both.

Opportunity and responsibility: That's how we ended welfare as we knew it. 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 are opening the doors 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. That's how we have seized the opportunities of a global era – with 270 new agreements to expand trade and open markets for American products. And that's how we are meeting the threats to peace by standing against ethnic and religious hatred, and standing up for our interests and values around the world.

In 1992, Vice President Gore and I had a roadmap. Today we have results. But we have work to do and great goals to reach. We will get there only if we stay on the path that got us here. Building on our progress ... always moving forward ... always gaining ground.

But we must not let our renewed confidence grow into complacency. Because you can't gain ground if you're standing still. For too long this Congress has been standing still on some of our most pressing national priorities. So let's get moving.

I ask you again this year to set aside the surplus to pay down the debt. To save social security, and extend its life the next 50 years. I ask you to secure Medicare so that this generation of older Americans -- and the next -- never have to worry about medical care. And let us provide a prescription drug benefit so that no senior has to choose between medicine and food.

I ask you to pass a real patients bill of rights. Pass common-sense gun-safety legislation. Pass meaningful hate crimes legislation. And I ask you again to raise the minimum wage.

But that will only be the start of our journey. Now we must lift our sights and take what Theodore Roosevelt at the dawn of the last century called "the long look ahead."

We live in revolutionary times. The way we communicate. The way we work. The way we learn. The way we live. The way we are and the people we are becoming. We have not only passed a point in time, we have crossed our bridge into the 21st century. We must now shape a 21st century American revolution of opportunity, responsibility, and community, equal to the challenges of our times. America is an ongoing revolution. We are, as we were in the beginning, a new nation.

The first American revolution was not won with a single shot. The continent was not settled in a single day. The challenge of expanding freedom has not been accomplished with one march -- but requires constant commitment and sacrifice. And always with our eyes on the prize. The dreams that drive us on are always bold. But the lesson of our history and the lesson of the last seven years is that we make great strides step by step.

OPPORTUNITY AND RESPONSIBILITY IN EDUCATION

Our first steps into the 21st Century must be the right steps. We need first and foremost a 21st century revolution in education, guided by our faith that all our children can learn and that all our people can succeed.

For seven years we have pursued a fundamental strategy on education: Invest more, yet 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 Congress has supported our effort to hire 100,000 new, qualified teachers, to lower class sizes in the early grades, for two years in a row. This year, I call on Congress to make it three in a row.

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-ferd] Elementary in South Carolina. Classified five years ago as one of the state's worst-performing schools, Beaufort embraced accountability and higher academic standards, and started afterschool and summer school programs to help students to

meet those standards. 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. The principal of Beaufort, Ruth Summerlin, is with us here tonight. Thank you for proving what all 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 many states and districts have managed to turn around their worst-performing schools—or shut them down and allow parents to choose other public schools for their children. Last fall, Congress passed my plan to give districts more resources to do the same. This year, let's double that investment. And let's give bonuses to states that succeed in making scores go up across the board.

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.

We know that children who learn early learn best. And since 1993, we've put over 160,000 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. If we do this, we can build the foundation for universal pre-school for every four-year-old in America.

We know that if we want our children to learn, we need good teachers. Tonight, I propose a \$1 billion initiative to bring the best and the brightest into teaching, to reward good teachers, and to ensure that bad ones leave the classroom, swiftly and fairly.

We know that a third of all schools in America are in serious disrepair -- with leaky roofs and antiquated electrical wiring. Tonight, I propose a new, \$1.3 billion to help 5,000 schools make immediate, urgent repairs. 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.

When I became President, there was just one independent public charter school in all America. Today there are 1700. My budget assures that we will meet our goal of funding 3000, so that when parents choose a public school they have real choice.

We know that to make the American Dream more achievable, we must make college more affordable. For seven years, we have taken actions, on a bipartisan basis, to reach that goal: more Pell grants, more-affordable student loans, education IRAs, and our HOPE scholarship tax cut. Our efforts are clearly paying off. Today, 67 percent of students who graduate high school go on to college, up almost 10 percent since 1993. Yet still, millions of middle class families are feeling the strain of paying college tuition. They need help.

In an economy that increasingly runs on brain power, we should give tax relief to people who are investing in education. My budget provides a landmark \$30-billion college opportunity tax cut, to help millions of middle-class families pay for college. It will give families a tax deduction for up to \$10,000 in tuition costs--providing as much as \$2,800 in much needed tax relief. With this new college opportunity tax cut, plus Hope Scholarships and other aid, we can say that every American who wants to go to college can go.

We must also say to middle school students from disadvantaged backgrounds, who may think college is unaffordable, or not for them, that it is for them. My budget doubles to 1.4 million the number of at-risk middle school students who receive mentoring by college students. It offers disadvantaged students the same test prep courses wealthier students use to boost their scores on college entrance exams. And it provides grants to colleges to help disadvantaged students succeed once they're in college.

If you have any doubt that by reaching across party lines, we can lift the lives of children, consider this: the thirty percent increase in the number of children adopted out of foster care. The first real increase in thirty years. And it happened because a bipartisan majority worked with us to make it happen. And 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 has led in this effort, someone who has worked tirelessly for children as long as I have known her: Hillary Rodham Clinton.

REWARDING WORK AND STRENGTHENING FAMILIES

We need a 21st Century revolution to reward work and strengthen families. That has been the basic goal of so much of what we have done – from reforming welfare to raising the minimum wage. When you work hard and play by the rules, you should be rewarded. From your standard of living to your self-respect.

One of the most powerful incentives to work has been the Earned Income Tax Credit, a targeted tax cut for 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 greatly expand the EITC, and we did. As a result, in 1998 alone the EITC

helped more than 4.3 million Americans work their way into the middle class – double the number in 1993.

Tonight, I propose another major expansion of the EITC. We should reduce the marriage penalty for the EITC, making sure that it rewards marriage, and family, just as it rewards work; and we should 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. They're working hard to reach the middle class. And we should help them.

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 funds for 110,000 more working families to live closer to the workplace. This year, lets more than double that number. If we want people to go to work, they have to be able to get to work.

We must never forget the Americans who have no home but the shelters or the streets. At a time of prosperity, we must dedicate ourselves to ending homelessness and ensuring that all Americans – every veteran, every person with a mental illness, every family – have a place to call home. I want to thank someone who has made that her personal mission. Who is working day after day directly with homeless people Tipper Gore.

Working parents need quality, affordable child care. Many spend up to a quarter of their income on child care. Last year, we helped parents provide care for about 1.75 million children. But that's only one tenth of those eligible under federal law. My child care initiative, along with the funds secured in welfare reform, would make child care better, safer, and more affordable for another 650,000 children.

To help millions of parents with moderate incomes, we should expand the child care tax credit. And let's take the next big step. Let's make the tax credit refundable for low-income families. For those making \$TK a year – too little to earn a refund today – that means \$TK more for child-care costs. Let's get this done. Parents should be able to balance work and family – not have to choose between them.

From my first days as President, we have worked to give families better access to better health care. In 1993, many workers lost their coverage when they changed or lost their jobs; many lost their jobs when they took time off to care for a sick loved one. And when employers failed to provide it, many working families had nowhere to turn to provide health care for their children.

Working together, we have changed that: by providing family and medical leave; by protecting coverage between jobs; and by passing a Children's Health Insurance Program. In less than a year, enrollment in CHIP has doubled, to 2 million children. Our goal is to cover up to 5 million; so we're well on our way. The more children we cover, the more can begin healthy lives: the childhood immunization rate is now 90 percent, an all-time high.

But there are too many – far too many – uninsured children. To enroll more of them, we should go where they're found – schools, churches, child-care centers – and do it there. And

let's take an even bigger step. In four out of five cases, uninsured kids have uninsured parents. So let's do what Vice President Gore suggests and enroll the parents, too. I propose new legislation to make these parents eligible for the programs that cover their kids.

And let's give a real, affordable option to the fastest growing group of uninsured: people between 55 and 65 who lose their coverage. Last year, I proposed that we let them buy into Medicare. This year, I propose we also give them a tax credit, to make this option more affordable.

We must also do more to care for the caregivers – the record numbers of American families providing for aging or ailing loved ones at home. More and more this is a common choice, but rarely an easy – or inexpensive – one. Last year, I proposed a \$1,000 tax credit for long-term care. This year, let's triple that – to \$3,000. That would cover up to 60 percent of a family's long-term care costs. Let's recognize and reward the sacrifice they're making.

If we really want to reward work and family, let's make sure that men and women get equal pay for equal work. Working women have made significant strides: more single mothers are working than ever, and the women's unemployment rate is the lowest in almost 50 years. But women earn less than 77 cents for every dollar men earn. That's just not good enough. We should pass the Paycheck Fairness Act. My budget also provides much needed resources to enforce present equal pay laws, and to train more women for high-paying, high-tech jobs.

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

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

We have already begun 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.

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.

And to absent parents who owe child support, we should pass legislation that says: we'll help you do right by your children, but from now on, you have to go to work, and pay them what you owe.

RESPONSIBILITY AND CRIME

Crime in America has dropped every year for the past seven years -- the longest continuous decline 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 do more to keep guns out of the hands of criminals and juveniles. Last year, Congress considered common-sense gun safety legislation to require Brady background checks at gun shows, child safety locks for all new handguns, and a ban on the importation of large-capacity ammunition clips. In the face of enormous pressure from the gun lobby, the Senate, acting with courage and responsibility, and with a tie-breaking vote by the Vice President, passed the legislation. This year, I hope the House will finally follow suit. The lives of our children depend on it.

Last year, in Littleton, Colorado, we all saw what can happen when guns are allowed to fall into the wrong hands. One of the students killed at Columbine High School was Daniel Mauser, age 15. Daniel was an amazing kid, a straight-A student, a good skier. It is hard, maybe impossible, to comprehend the grief his father Tom must feel. But Tom has translated that grief into action. Earlier this month, he took a leave of absence from his job to advocate for tougher gun safety laws. His presence here is an inspiration. Passing 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 require licenses for handgun 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 must do more. I propose to 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. I thank those gun manufacturers who have worked on this. And I invite all manufacturers to help us keep guns out of the wrong hands.

Every parent I know worries about violence in the media. 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 programs and video and Internet games. This year, I ask the industry to go farther. Let's do as the First Lady has suggested, and give parents what they need: a single, voluntary rating system for all their children's entertainment -- a system that is easy to understand and enforce.

Every year, hundreds of thousands of offenders leave our prisons and jails, only to wind up back in trouble with the law. More often than not, drugs are a major part of the problem. Two-thirds of ex-offenders who are sent back to prison are drug abusers. But if they get drug treatment, they are up to 70 percent less likely to commit another crime. We must provide them with that treatment, along with regular drug testing and a simple bargain: stay clean and you stay free; do drugs and you do more time. I also propose a new initiative to train, counsel, and more carefully monitor ex-offenders so that they can become responsible citizens, family members, and employees.

OPENING NEW MARKETS

For our economy to continue enjoying rapid growth without inflation, we need a 21st Century revolution to open new markets. It is vital that businesses find new opportunities and new workers. I believe they 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 potential in America's new markets.

Now, more than ever, we can expand the circle of opportunity 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?

Businesses should have the same incentives to invest in America's new markets as they have to invest in foreign markets. In this year's budget, I call on Congress to double our New Markets Tax Credit, to spur \$15 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. I thank you for your commitment and I pledge to work with you.

Last summer, I became the first President to visit an Indian reservation since Franklin Roosevelt. That's far too long. My budget increases our investment in health care, education,

law enforcement, and infrastructure by more than \$1 billion. In this new century, we should honor our historic responsibility to the first Americans -- Native Americans.

We must also fulfill our obligation to our farming communities, the lifeblood of our land. When I signed the farm bill in 1996, I feared it would work well in good times but not in bad -- especially for family farmers. In recent years, they have endured droughts, floods and historically low prices due to financial crises abroad. We simply must change the Farm Bill and strengthen the Farm Safety Net.

This spring, I will lead a New Markets tour to focus on the "digital divide" -- between those with access to the new economy and those without it. The technology that drives our expansion also creates tools to ensure that everyone, from the city to the farm to the reservation, can share in our prosperity. My budget creates technology centers in 1,000 neighborhoods across our land -- connecting poor communities to the economic mainstream. It also mobilizes the combined force of public, private, and nonprofit sectors to increase Internet access in low-income areas. Every American must have the tools to succeed.

GLOBAL CHANGE AND AMERICAN LEADERSHIP

It is not enough to master the possibilities of the new economy at home. We must also lead in the revolution that is reshaping the global economy -- and indeed the entire globe.

At the dawn of this new century, the economic and military might of America are unrivaled. These are the measures of American power, as they have long been. But the central reality of our time is globalization -- a process tearing down barriers between nations, peoples, economies, and cultures so that what happens anywhere is felt everywhere. The change can be liberating and threatening. But the bottom line is clear: The world is coming together around ideals Americans have long proclaimed, fought for and tried to live. And it is our open, creative society that stands to benefit more than any other.

Globalization is irreversible. The way to advance our interests is to stand at the center of every vital global network. America will remain a strong leader by being a good partner -- to old allies and to new ones, and to nations that need a helping hand. And we will remain true to what makes us Americans by standing strong for our values.

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 growing 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. What we seek is a global economy based on the rule of law.

That is why China should join the WTO and live under the same trade rules America does. For America's companies and workers, this will open 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.

When we engage in the global economy, we are investing in our shared future. Growth from trade is vital not just 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 to reduce the debts that cripple the world's poorest nations. I ask Congress to support that effort, and to finalize our plans to open new trade opportunities with Africa and the Caribbean Basin. If we do so, we will help Americans master the new economy . . . and help others to become masters of their own future.

Still, our modern world is bedeviled by our most ancient failing – fear of those who are different from us. In too many places, that fear is exploited by unscrupulous leaders clinging to power or waging war on their neighbors. History teaches that big wars start small. And when human beings anywhere are singled out for destruction, it is our common humanity that suffers.

America cannot prevent every conflict or stop every outrage. But where our interests are at stake and we can make a difference, we must be peacemakers. We should be proud of America's role in bringing the Middle East closer than ever to comprehensive peace. [Update; essential that America does its share.] We should be proud of our role in building peace from Northern Ireland, to East Timor, to Africa . . . in promoting reconciliation between Greece and Turkey . . . and in defending human rights and religious freedom.

And we should be proud of the men and women of our armed forces who stopped the ethnic cleansing in Kosovo, and made it possible for a million innocent people to return to their homes. Today, 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, each in his own way, has given his best – and America's best – to the cause of peace. In Kosovo, when Slobodan Milosevic unloosed his terror, Captain John Cherrey was one of the brave airmen who turned the tide – flying straight into the teeth of Serbian air defenses to bring home the pilot of a downed American plane. And in Northern Ireland, when the peace process stalled, I asked the man who had done so much to start it to go back again to save it. And now, thanks to George Mitchell, the people of Northern Ireland finally have a working government representing all parties. Captain Cherrey, Senator Mitchell, you have our gratitude, and our promise to finish the work you helped begin.

A central challenge of this new century is whether our former adversaries, Russia and China, emerge as stable, prosperous, democratic partners of the United States.

Today, Russia is weakened by the legacy of communism, by economic crisis, by a cruel and futile war in Chechnya. But so much else has changed: 5,000 Soviet nuclear weapons dismantled; Russian troops serving by our side, keeping peace in the Balkans. Russia's long journey to democracy may be difficult, it may not be complete; but it is profoundly important to America and the world. A generation from now, let it be said we did our part.

In China, we must promote our interests with firmness, but not in fear. China cannot buy stability and stature at the expense of freedom. But let us not isolate China from the global forces of change. We want to see China on the inside, playing by the rules, not on the outside denying them.

We face another challenge: whether terrorists and hostile nations will acquire new means to undermine our defenses. The same advances that have shrunk cell phones to fit in the palms of our hands can also make weapons of terror – chemical, biological, nuclear – easier to conceal and easier to use.

We must meet this threat. By working with Russia to keep deadly weapons and materials secure and continuing to reduce our nuclear arsenals; by restraining nuclear and missile programs in North Korea and Iran; by preventing Iraq from threatening its neighbors; and by strengthening global standards against proliferation. I am committed to working with the Senate – on a bipartisan basis – to build a consensus for the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty.

America is increasing its preparedness for potential biological attack, and developing a system to defend ourselves against the missiles of outlaw nations – while working to preserve our Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty with Russia. My budget devotes \$2 billion to protect our vital computer systems from hackers and criminals in any corner of any country.

To have a more stable world, we must narrow the gap between rich and poor. We cannot accept a world in which a part of humanity lives on the cutting edge of the new economy while another lives on the bare edge of survival. Expanded trade is part of the answer. But the real answer is freedom.

From Nigeria to Indonesia, more people won the right to choose their leaders in 1999 than in 1989, the year the Berlin Wall fell. Yet new democracies need help in delivering for their people. We must stand by countries like Colombia, fighting for its own people's lives – and for our children's lives – against the poison of drug trafficking. I have proposed a two-year, \$1.6 billion package to help Colombia; and I count on your support. And if we want to put the drug lords out of business, let's go after what they value most: their money. This year, I will propose legislation to crack down harder on money laundering, here and around the world.

America must help more nations to break the bonds of disease that hold down their people. Last year in Africa, AIDS killed ten times as many people as war did. My budget invests \$150 million in the global fight against this and other infectious killers. And I will ask the world to join us in a new initiative to speed the delivery and development of vaccines. 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, together, lift millions of lives.

All this comes down to a single central challenge, the most important one of all, will America continue to lead. In the 20th Century, America was thrust into global leadership by the forces of history. Now, America must choose: to direct the new forces of history or be driven by them.

The choice is clear. America must not grow complacent; we cannot presume that the fight for freedom is fully won. No peace can endure unless it is backed by the leadership of great nations. So America must lead boldly and consistently and without reservation. Because freedom is always in America's interest.

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 one percent of our budget that supports our international engagement and keeps our soldiers out of war. Last year, Congress worked with me to maintain that commitment and to resume paying our UN dues and arrears. Let's do it again this year. And let's remember that building a stronger global community will only strengthen our own community here at home.

RESPONSIBILITY, OPPORTUNITY, AND THE ENVIRONMENT

We have no higher obligation to our children, and their children, than to be wise stewards of our air, water, and land. I am grateful for the many opportunities the Vice President and I have had to honor this commitment – and to finally put to rest the notion that you can't expand your economy and protect the environment at the same time. For as our economy has grown, we have rid countless neighborhoods of toxic waste; ensured cleaner drinking water for millions of families; and taken unprecedented action to improve the air we breathe.

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 are protecting for all Americans, for all time. Not since the days of Theodore Roosevelt has the nation come together to save so much precious land.

But our communities 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 our wildlands, protect our coastlines, and restore our wildlife. This endowment would provide nearly \$1.5 billion each year – by far the largest, most enduring investment in land preservation ever proposed.

Last year, the Vice President launched a major new effort to help make communities more livable – so children will grow up next to parks rather than parking lots, and parents don't sit in endless traffic when they could be home with their kids. Tonight, we propose to strengthen this initiative with new funding to help communities build advanced transit systems and save farms, parks, and other precious open spaces.

As we work to protect our land, we must help other nations that are struggling to protect theirs. The rainforests are the lungs of our planet – yet they are disappearing at the rate of more than 50 acres a minute. Tonight, I propose a new plan to help countries from the Amazon to the

Congo Basin strengthen their economies by preserving, rather than destroying, 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 reduce emissions of greenhouse gases now, the seas will rise and natural disasters will become more frequent with each passing year.

There is no question that we can reduce greenhouse gas pollution. Thanks to remarkable new technologies, I am absolutely convinced that we can do it in ways that will produce more widespread, more sustainable economic growth.

In California, the Departments of Energy and Housing and Urban Development helped build a moderate-income housing community with windows that keep out four or five times as much heat and cold as ordinary windows do. With these and other readily-available technologies, we thought we'd be able to save homeowners 40% off their energy bills. It turns out, they're saving 65%.

Last week, at the Detroit Auto Show, the world got a chance to see cars we've helped automakers develop which use advanced materials and dual fuel sources to get 70 to 80 miles a gallon. Next on the horizon are even more efficient cars powered by fuel cells that emit pure water and nothing else. Before you know it, we'll be producing clean fuels from crops and getting the equivalent of hundreds of miles from a gallon of gas.

To spur these new technologies, I propose giving our families a tax credit worth up to \$3,000 a car when new super-efficient vehicles hit the showroom floor. But let me be clear: We have the technology to make all new cars more fuel efficient right now. I want to thank the automakers who have joined our Partnership for New Generation Vehicles and I ask more of them to join with us to design a new strategy for reversing the recent decline in average fuel economy. You've committed to higher efficiency in Europe. Let's do the same right here at home.

We must also meet this worldwide challenge by giving developing countries the tools to grow in ways that strengthen their economies and protect the environment. So tonight, I propose a new [\$100 million] initiative to help these countries adopt the newest clean-energy technologies. It is simply no longer true that to prosper you have to pollute the air and endanger the Earth. Nations that long for the level of prosperity we take for granted need not follow the old patterns of growth that brought us global warming.

THE OPPORTUNITY AND RESPONSIBILITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Innovations in science and technology are key not only to enhancing the environment. Sustained investments in scientific research will also yield dramatic, almost miraculous, advances in the quality of our lives.

In the last century alone, the life expectancy for the average American has increased from 47 to 77 – thanks to discoveries such as penicillin and the development of vaccines for many childhood diseases. Today, we are on the cusp of far greater advances that will not only help us live far longer but far better. Later this year, researchers will finish the first complete sequence of the human genome – the very blueprint of life. Since so many diseases have a genetic component, the completion of this project will lead to a revolution in our ability to detect, treat, and prevent diseases from Alzheimer's to cancer to AIDS.

Consider the implications: if we delay the onset of Alzheimer's by just five years, we could empty half the nursing home beds in America. If we delay the onset of adult diabetes, we could save \$30 billion in health care costs.

Thanks to the Human Genome Project, scientists have recently identified three of the genes that cause Parkinson's Disease – and they are already working to create precision proteins that will turn off these faulty genes for good. Not if but when they succeed, millions and men and women will be cured of this dread disease – even those whose symptoms have not even begun to emerge.

[insert acknowledgment and introduction of Michael J. Fox]

Advances in science and technology will surely produce quantum leaps in many other fields as well. In the future we will have new materials ten times as strong as steel but ten times lighter ... computers that can translate spoken English into foreign languages and vice versa as fast as you can speak ... devices the size of sugar cubes that can store all the information contained the Library of Congress.

These and other innovations 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 the rise of the Internet and other information technologies. And the high-tech jobs this industry creates are high-wage jobs – paying nearly 80 percent more than the private-sector average.

For all these reasons, my budget will include a \$3 billion increase in the 21st Century Research Fund. We will increase support for biomedical research, information technology, clean energy, and university-based research. We will also help propel NASA's never-ending quest in space. NASA's missions to Mars and into the heavens beyond are just as important to humankind today as the brave sea voyages of the explorers hundreds of years ago. As President Kennedy once said, "We choose to do these things not because they are easy but because they are hard."

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.

If we do all these things, we can ensure that the march of human discovery will only quicken in the century before us -- enhancing life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness in ways that we can only begin to imagine today.

COMMUNITY

At a time of unprecedented prosperity, we have a unique opportunity and responsibility to reach out beyond ourselves to help those who are less fortunate and to build stronger communities. The most important work of America occurs outside the realm of government -- in our houses of worship, in our clubs and charities and volunteer groups. Service is not only the way we tackle some of our most pressing problems -- from drug abuse and homelessness, to health care and crime -- it is one of the best ways to come face to face with our common humanity. Our differences suddenly become less important when you are working side by side with your neighbors to rebuild a church, battle a flood or feed the hungry.

So, our long look ahead must include ways to widen the circle of citizen service until it embraces every American. We are already in the midst of a new service movement in America. And one of the things I am most proud of is our efforts to support that movement through greater partnerships with private citizens. This is a new model for government that energizes private resources for noble public ends. Four years ago, I asked corporate leaders to join with us in a partnership to provide jobs to those leaving welfare. Today, 12,000 companies have hired nearly 650,000 former welfare recipients. Over the past seven years we have created many other successful partnerships. To fight drug abuse and AIDS. To teach our young people to read. To Save America's Treasures. To fight teen pregnancy. To fight crime and promote community policing. To promote racial healing and build One America. To prevent youth violence. To create cleaner cars. To help our young people serve.

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.

If we really do believe that charity begins at home, we must do more to reward lower and middle income Americans who tithe and contribute to charities. Right now, only people who earn enough to itemize can claim a tax deduction for charitable contributions. Tonight, I propose new tax incentives that will allow low and middle income citizens to claim that same deduction. That will not only help them, it will be an incentive for more Americans to give to worthy causes.

There are more than twice as many seniors today as there were in 1960. And by 2030, the senior population will grow by over 75 percent. I hope to be one of them. This is a huge army of workers and volunteers who want and deserve a chance to serve.

So, tonight, I say to seniors across America – we need you. We need your work, your wisdom and your service. Get involved if you are not and stay involved if you are.

We must do more to bring more people into the circle of citizenship and service – from supporting the efforts of faith-based organizations to increasing our investment, as we are this year, in teaching English and civics to new immigrants.

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. Two generations ago, Franklin Roosevelt used the new medium of radio for his fireside chats. Starting next month, I will use the new medium of the Internet to launch Webside Chats. These interactive discussions will give more Americans the opportunity to share their views and be a part of our national community.

America is demographically undergoing one of the great transformations in our history. Within ten years there will be no majority race in our largest state, California. In a little more than 50 years there is likely to be no majority race in America. We know what America will look like then. The question before us tonight is: What kind of America will we be? In a more

interconnected world, will we make diversity our greatest strength? As we have seen in recent years, from Northern Ireland to Africa ... from Bosnia to the Middle East, racial and ethnic conflict too often spark war and terror. And no country is exempt from hatred – even our own.

We have seen a man dragged to death in Texas simply because he was black. A young man murdered in Wyoming simply because he was gay. In just the last year, we've seen the shootings and killings of African Americans, Asian Americans, and Jewish children simply because of who they were. We must draw the line. This is not the American way. In America, we not only tolerate diversity, we celebrate it. Diversity is our greatest strength – and we must protect it. We must without further delay, pass the Hate Crimes Prevention Act and the Employment Non-Discrimination Act.

The work of building One America must be the work of every American. 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. That is why 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 religious leaders to corporate leaders to lawyers to make sure every American can help build the One America of our dreams.

This fall, at the White House, one of America's leading scientists, said something we all need to remember, all human beings genetically are 99.9 percent. Science affirms what faith has always taught us: the differences between us are nothing compared to our common humanity.

My fellow Americans, each time I prepare for the state of the union, I approach 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, with a new millennium spread out before us. Behind us we see the expanse of American achievement, and ahead even wider frontiers of possibility.

So, as we take our long look ahead, we must ask ourselves: How will we make the most of this moment of promise?

Tonight, let us pledge to ourselves and to our children:

At a time of undreamed of economic growth, we will, step by step, bring prosperity in reach of every American in every community.

At a time of record surpluses, we will, step by step, make America debt free for the first time since 1835.

At a time when Americans are living longer than ever, let's make sure they live healthier than ever. Let's provide quality, affordable healthcare for everyone in America.

At a time when science and technology are transforming our world, let us realize their full promise and, at every step, harness our progress to our values.

At a time when we have proved we can grow the economy and protect the environment, let's also prove that, step by step, we can reverse climate change and make our planet a more livable place.

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

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

At a time when knowledge is the key to the new economy, let's guarantee that every child will begin school ready to learn and will graduate ready to succeed.

At a time when globalization brings both new promise and new perils, let us continue to be the world's indispensable nation.

At a time when America is growing more diverse than ever, let's finally become what we've always pledged to be – one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

We know we will not be able to do this in one year alone. Or even in the decade ahead. But we will reach these goals, the way we always have: working together, moving ahead, step by step, as One America.

When the framers were crafting our Constitution, Benjamin Franklin was often seen in Independence Hall looking at a painting of the sun low on the horizon. When, at long last, the Constitution finally was signed, Mr. Franklin, said: "I have often wondered whether that sun was rising or setting. Today I have the happiness to know it is a rising sun." Today the sun continues to shine brightly on America, as each successive generation relights the fire of freedom. Even after 224 years, the American revolution continues -- and we remain a new nation. As long as our dreams outweigh our memories, America will be forever young. And that is our destiny.

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



Jeffrey A. Shesol
01/23/2000 02:51:10 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Terry Edmonds/WHO/EOP@EOP, Joshua S. Gottheimer/WHO/EOP@EOP

cc:
Subject: int'l

GLOBAL CHANGE AND AMERICAN LEADERSHIP

It is not enough to master the possibilities of the new economy at home. We must also lead in the revolution that is reshaping the global economy – and indeed the entire globe.

At the dawn of this new century, the economic and military might of America are unrivaled. These are the measures of American power, as they have long been. But the central reality of our time is globalization – a process tearing down barriers between nations, peoples, economies, and cultures so that what happens anywhere is felt everywhere. The change can be liberating and threatening. But the bottom line is clear: The world is coming together around ideals Americans have long proclaimed, fought for and tried to live, and our open, creative society stands to benefit more than any other. *that* *of it is* *stet*

Globalization is irreversible. The way to advance our interests is to stand at the center of every vital global network. America will remain a strong leader by being a good partner – to old allies and to new ones, and to nations that need a helping hand. And we will remain true to what makes us Americans by standing strong for our values.

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 growing 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. What we seek is a global economy based on the rule of law.

That is why China should join the WTO and live under the same trade rules America does. For America's companies and workers, this will open 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.

When we engage in the global economy, we are investing in our shared future. Growth from trade is vital not just 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 to reduce the debts that cripple the world's poorest nations. I ask Congress to support that effort,

and to finalize our plans to open new trade opportunities with Africa and the Caribbean Basin. If we do so, we will help Americans master the new economy . . . and help others to become masters of their own future.

Still, our modern world is bedeviled by our most ancient failing – fear of those who are different from us. In too many places, that fear is exploited by unscrupulous leaders clinging to power or waging war on their neighbors. History teaches that big wars start small. And when human beings anywhere are singled out for destruction, it is our common humanity that suffers.

America cannot prevent every conflict or stop every outrage. But where our interests are at stake and we can make a difference to make, we must be peacemakers. We should be proud of America's role in bringing the Middle East closer than ever to comprehensive peace. [Update; essential that America does its share.] We should be proud of our role in building peace from Northern Ireland, to East Timor, to Africa . . . in promoting reconciliation between Greece and Turkey . . . and in defending human rights and religious freedom.

And we should be proud of the men and women of our armed forces who stopped the ethnic cleansing, in Kosovo, and made it possible for a million innocent people to return to their homes. Today, 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, each in his own way, has given his best – and America's best – to the cause of peace. In Kosovo, when Slobodan Milosevic unloosed his terror, Captain John Cherrey was one of the brave airmen who turned the tide – flying straight into the teeth of Serbian air defenses to bring home the pilot of a downed American plane. And in Northern Ireland, when the peace process stalled, I asked the man who had done so much to start it to go back again to save it. And now, thanks to George Mitchell, the people of Northern Ireland finally have a working government representing all parties. Captain Cherrey, Senator Mitchell, you have our gratitude, and our promise to finish the work you helped begin.

A central challenge of this new century is whether our former adversaries, Russia and China, emerge as stable, prosperous, democratic partners of the United States.

Today, Russia is weakened by the legacy of communism, by economic crisis, by a cruel and futile war in Chechnya. But so much else has changed: 5,000 Soviet nuclear weapons dismantled; Russian troops serving by our side, keeping peace in the Balkans. Russia's long journey to democracy may be difficult, it may not be complete; but it is profoundly important to America and the world. A generation from now, let it be said we did our part.

In China, we must promote our interests with firmness, but not in fear. China cannot buy stability and stature at the expense of freedom. But let us not isolate China from the global forces of change. We want to see China on the inside, playing by the rules, not on the outside denying them.

We face another challenge: whether terrorists and hostile nations will acquire new means to undermine our defenses. The same advances that have shrunk cell phones to fit in the palms of our hands can also make weapons of terror – chemical, biological, nuclear – easier to conceal and easier to use.

We must meet this threat. By working with Russia to keep deadly weapons and materials secure and continuing to reduce our nuclear arsenals; by restraining nuclear and missile programs in North Korea and Iran; by preventing Iraq from threatening its neighbors; and by strengthening global standards against proliferation. I am committed to working with the Senate – on a bipartisan basis – to build a consensus for the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty.

America is increasing its preparedness for potential biological attack, and developing a system to defend ourselves against the missiles of outlaw nations – while working to preserve our Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty with Russia. My budget devotes \$2 billion to protect our vital computer systems from hackers and criminals in any corner of any country.

To have a more stable world, we must narrow the gap between rich and poor. We cannot accept a world in which a part of humanity lives on the cutting edge of the new economy while another lives on the bare edge of survival. Expanded trade is part of the answer. But the real answer is freedom.

From Nigeria to Indonesia, more people won the right to choose their leaders in 1999 than in 1989, the year the Berlin Wall fell. Yet new democracies need help in delivering for their people. We must stand by countries like Colombia, fighting for its own people's lives – and for our children's lives – against the poison of drug trafficking. I have proposed a two-year, \$1.6 billion package to help Colombia; and I count on your support. And if we want to put the drug lords out of business, let's go after what they value most: their money. This year, I will propose legislation to crack down harder on money laundering, here and around the world.

America must help more nations to break the bonds of disease that hold down their people. Last year in Africa, AIDS killed ten times as many people as war did. My budget invests \$150 million in the global fight against this and other infectious killers. And I will ask the world to join us in a new initiative to speed the delivery and development of vaccines. 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, together, lift millions of lives.

All this comes down to a single central challenge, the most important one of all, will America continue to lead. In the 20th Century, America was thrust into global leadership by the forces of history. Now, America must choose: to direct the new forces of history or be driven by them.

The choice is clear. America must not grow complacent; we cannot presume that the

fight for freedom is fully won. No peace can endure unless it is backed by the leadership of great nations. So America must lead boldly and consistently and without reservation. Because freedom is always in America's interest.

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 one percent of our budget that supports our international engagement and keeps our soldiers out of war. Last year, Congress worked with me to maintain that commitment and to resume paying our UN dues and arrears. Let's do it again this year. And let's remember that building a stronger global community will only strengthen our own community here at home.

We must also do more to care for the caregivers – the record numbers of American families providing for aging or ailing loved ones at home. More and more this a common choice, but rarely an easy – or inexpensive – one. This year, let's triple the long-term care tax credit I proposed last year. This new tax credit of \$3,000 could cover up to 60 percent of a family's long-term care costs. Let's recognize and reward the sacrifice they're making.

Reed

Vision and down payment throughout.

Challenges, issue by issues

What order do go in.

Education – vision there. Each of long term visions. More concrete – turn around failing schools. Big/ broad as it can be. Every child access.

Education: make most g-d given-potential. To succeed in the new economy. The best 21st century education system on earth.

BR: we need measurable goals – know when we met them. I.e. – we were told.

WHICH BIG CHALLENGES DOES HE LIKE? He likes safest big country; parents...

Education – what is our long-term goal for children. Making sure every child has...education, healthcare, etc. they need to make the most of their God-given potential.

Shrum --- never gets credit for what he does – vast economic revolution. What will we do w/ this moment. We need a revolution in education. Best 21st century schools ever on earth.

Do something never been done before – every kid gets the oppt. good education. Real prosperity to reach of every community living in shadows. Revolution of something... to make America safest big country in wld.

Retirement: how is it different ? so no retired will be in poverty.

REED: All elderly live in dignity and respect. “Not only living longer but living better. Decent standard of living. All medical care they need (health care) – that’s prescription drugs, etc.

Giving parents the tools to succeed – most important work of all. No parents should have to choose between work and family. They all have the tools to succeed.

Time where new economy – we should try something that has never been tried before. The highest possible...

In a century where we can’t afford to waste. Economic growth reach new levels. We need to extend...

Something that has nothing been done before. Brining prosperity into reach of every community in this country.

This is our dream – 100 years from now. Neighborhoods in poverty are neighborhoods of prosperity. In a century when people want to do job and raise children. Make work really work for families.

Reach a place that has never been reached before. (not right words, but..)

See yesterday's speech/ time context. Freedom. What is the real meaning? Steps to bring down crime rates. Stayed w/ that for a while. It's particularly at this moment when we are free of oppression, threats, etc. time when freedom spreading throughout globe, we should seize freedom here at home...

Used this line last time. What d-day meant. Challenge: to give a purpose of the prosperity. Do something w/ the freedom – w/ the moment.

We shouldn't go on and on over particulars. Economic, social, peace/freedom revolutions.

Century when our society more diverse. When minority become majority. Reach place always reached – one god indivisible. Not reached yet.

What's new century; what's new in our dreams.

MARIA: Economy/ trade (foreign policy) .

Education

New markets – every corner.

Crime

Family

Science/ Technology: 2 things – maximize potential of the revolution; and that we tie it to our values. Other half. Unleashed enormous potential.

What do we need to do about those advances?

What goal setting for us in new century – then we get down to the payments. Translate them into concrete ambitions.

The more technology takes us out bounds/ out of the future – more we have to get back to our core values. Enormous potentials. More on death and disease. Juvenile diabetes.

Maria: if you delay Alzheimer by 5 years, delay death [FACT check]. Science allows you to bring country to new place. Stop adult diabetes, spend money in Africa.

Not just new era advancement, but of enlightenment. New era of enlightenment.

Privacy v. perils.

--

PENN: are we comfortable (first principles). What's headline? Does family stuff move everyone?

Is it worth doing new oppt agenda. We should always link oppt and responsibility. New oppt and new resp. tie them together.

Add third – big dreams for future. Give big vision for each section. Section at the end: gee whiz. Cool facts.

Shrum: lay vision out in technology. In each of these areas. One or two startling things. Imagine the future. Imagine the world.

Beginning should lay out – prepare for 21st century is a little late. Build bridge line – we can move that up.

Send home notion: go home first section: we had good economy. Then we had a surplus. What is today don't believe. 6 million off welfare. Better off as a society/ not just economy. Welfare. What's the thing they moved on? Economy/ surplus.

Not just better off – better.

Better success: not just economy better; maybe that was greenspan. Stats – lower child, lower crime,

We've made tremendous gains. Made society better.

Reed: Not just litany. Tight litany of economic stuff – all under the notion that we had a revolution in the economy. Something equally as sweeping.

Glastris: We thank Lloyd Bentsen. Not just more prosperous economy, but a social fabric on the mend. Fabric woven more tightly.

Penn: they don't know teen pregnancy, welfare, etc. they have some sense crime is down. Years have been vast change. Revolution in responsibility, fiscal discipline, etc.

Eric: Facts traction – story line. 7 years ago drift. We couldn't beat back crumbling schools; strains on welfare... etc. give that backdrop.

Penn – we shouldn't give history lecture. (anti-eric's idea).

Here's where we are today (up front): booming economy, better strong as nation (good phrase). Here's why – how did we get here. We applied philosophy. Oppt, resp. to schools, fiscal resp. Now – we are prepared for new century. We have to dream new dreams. Then flip to new century.

1. Today – snapshot. Great economy, surplus, etc.
2. We are a stronger nation today. Made great progress. Revolution, or some memorable phrase. State society strong.
3. Explain – 7 million off welfare, as well as what's happened w/ all social indicators. [JOSH – get these]. But be careful, because violence schools. GNP up, SNP up. (freedman)

4. Philosophy – how did we get there. Applied to schools, fiscal respon, values now. (oppt. resp, etc.).
5. Now we have to dream new dreams.

Shrum – we have to take credit. Or no one will give it. Not boastful; we as a country. But -- Resists too self-congratulatory.

Reed – question about limited bragging.

Shrum agrees w/ penn's structure.

TE: new oppt, responsibility. List 10 partnerships we've done. American people have played a role – welfare to work; teen pregnancy; youth violence, etc. Evidence.

Maria – use mark's structure. You actually do get that.

Educator in big bold way – not like middle class suburban types are excited because talking about families.

Penn: Healthcare family, ok. etc. what's the big thing? Dream new dreams – universal pre-school, etc.

Shrum/ Reed: bill Clinton's challenge to America. The 10 big things. The things we try to get. The sweep of our agenda. Propose things do in year. What I'm proposing today are just down payments on 10 deadly visions.

Imagine what X, Y, Z will look like... imagine what America will look like.

Penn: The thing has to be huge. Every child has healthcare, etc. something that have to remember. 3 or 4. Every child should have healthcare.

1st section—revolution economy, etc. 7 years amazing. Now here are the big things. We need bigger vision for America. I.e. technology, etc.

Eric: might be too confessionalary.

Maria: bridge big idea w/ what going to do over next 10 years. Not giant leaps. Every step counts. Not giant leaps. Justification for Clinton presidency.

Step by step – not giant leaps. Leader of American optimism.

Shrum: finder of new age – new century. It took 7 years to get us out of hole.

Glastis – now we're at a position we weren't 7 years ago. Only now can we take long view. Americans thought we should have jobs. America ought to balance its books. Americans

thinking we should move people from welfare to work. Americans have spent lives thinking America should have best education, etc.

Penn structure – here's where we are. Here's how we got there. Here are big challenges. 3 or 4...

Here's how we got here. Break w/ the future. Summing up – advantage. Being president. Either structure would work. Can we put it in words that are big enough. Sense of him dominating stage?

Shrum – 4 stories. A lot of focus on interaction...

Stories -- Big story from specific proposal. Save social security first. Universal day care. It's time to pass them. Time to pass them. Raise min wage, etc. don't leave here w/out it. W/out finishing agenda of 20th century... Press wants us to say it.

Fourth potential way – things are well. You make mistakes. Forget yourself. **KEEP THIS OUT.**

Work not necessarily finished.

Glastris: we can't avoid legacy problem. He has to be active leader betw congress and wh.

Reed: you haven't seen anything yet. We're not quitting. Most ambitious agenda yet. Work in progress. We just created platform for new era of progress. Everything should be about the beginning. New century, etc. It's true.

Unfinished business – we've been saying that forever. Reed and shrum should be in one place.

You've had that in front of you. Been there for year. Not enough. Just beginning. Lot about past and future – time is now...

Political story – he's setting agenda for election, candidates, parties.

POTUS setting agenda for Y2K.

Not thank bentsen w/ giving him credit. Can't give all credit to bentsen. Welcome bentsen home, where he spent so much of his life and shaped our nation's future. Lifetime public service.

Congress reconvenes for first session in new century – tie statesmanship, nonpartisanship. No better model for leadership in new century.

REED/ STRUCTURE: Unfinished business – where should it be. Introduction/ where we are/ philosophy, vision – before unfinished business. Changes atmosphere of room. Might be ok. Revolution, revolution, philosophical why... oppt, resp, comm. Ladies and gentleman we have work to do. Still have to do unfinished business/ not squander on surplus/ keep economy going. All after philosophy, but before vision. Accomps (sotu). **Can't have progress if you're standing still.** stop standing still. I ask you this year to pass this, pass this... step by step...

REED: Unique moment we're in – in last decade of 20th century. Unique moment for progress of America. Then unfinished business... Tax cut, etc. lessons of past. That's just beginning – in this special moment, we need to dream big dreams. Here's what we should shoot for in 21st century. 10 deadly visions. (or we should make them less). [all fine, but not very tangible].

New era of progress – unfinished business. Summary of what we've done, now we can't go back.

SID: presents spectacular vision of science and tech. You can't fulfil science and technology promises w/ out fulfilling (i.e. good education, etc.). How things will change through science and tech. How are you going to fulfill that promise?

ERIC: boil 10 things into 3 broad articulations. Make the most of our human capital. Science and Technology. What will we do w/ our diversity – global community that is so changed now?

3 thematic baskets. Do a billboard vision paragraph. Not all 10 deadly visions. Just a couple of them. Whatever ones you like best. Or more values; more picturesque.

REED: Visionary paragraph compelling, but not enumerative or long, that he'll have no followers. Reduce challenges.

Shrum: One America is a theme/ vision.

Idea – century in new economy requires knowledge,... we need to ...

Shrum: Revolutions are big baskets – we have those. Revolution in economy, society, responsibility, etc. who would have imagined ... 8 years ago we could stand here today and say that 8 million people have moved from welfare to work. (we forget what it was like).

How he's changed the past he inherited. That's changed/ allowed new era of prosperity. Present: we've crossed the bridge. Now we're in future. Let's change direction.

Narrative few words – who would have imagined... compression of 92.

VP – cast tie breaking event ...

FLOTUS – tied to child care. Thematic tie. Or violence. Mental health, acknowledge Tipper.

January 17, 2000

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: J. TERRY EDMONDS

CC: JOHN PODESTA
MARIA ECHAVESTE

SUBJECT: REVISED SOTU INTRODUCTION

Attached please find a revised introduction and framework for your 2000 State of the Union Address. It reflects my conversation with you, as well as comments from John Podesta, Maria Echaveste, Mark Penn, Don Baer and Sid Blumenthal.

As you suggested, we have relied heavily on the structure of your recent George Washington University DLC and Little Rock Chamber of Commerce speeches. We spend considerably more time telling the story of how your Third Way approach has fueled the nation's economic and social progress during the last seven years. We detail your record at home and abroad to make it more clear that America is prepared for the challenges of the new century.

While your agenda and budget priorities are presented within the framework of opportunity, responsibility and community, we plan to offer them as first steps in your discussion of the long look ahead and the big challenges of the 21st Century. We are working to broaden the discussion of your new opportunity agenda so that it speaks to all Americans who are struggling to meet the demands of the new economy. The big challenges are:

- Making sure every child begins school ready to learn and graduates ready to succeed. *Best 21st century education on earth*
- Shining the light of prosperity in communities that have been in the shadows for far too long.
- Making America the safest big country in the world. ✓
- Ensuring that every older American has the secure retirement they have worked for and deserve.
- Giving parents the tools to succeed at work and at the most important work of all – raising their children.
- Making sure that our scientific progress is guided by our common values.
- Empowering all Americans to join the growing movement of service and citizenship.

*making America safe for
making sure every family has tools to succeed
Championing the potential
of the Little Rock Chamber - speech picture*

- Continuing to improve the environment while strengthening the economy both at home and abroad.
- Seizing the opportunities of a more interconnected world to create more freedom, prosperity and peace for ourselves and our global neighbors.
- Making America the most successful diverse democracy in the history of the world.

I will be happy to discuss this with you during your trip to Boston tomorrow, or at our scheduled prep on Wednesday.

**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 to you the first State of the Union Address of a new century and a new millennium.

I think we can all agree that we are fortunate to be alive at this moment in history. Never has our nation enjoyed, at once, so much prosperity, social progress and national self-confidence with so little internal crisis or external threat. Never have our values – of peace, freedom and democracy – been more ascendant in the world. Never have we had such a blessed opportunity – and, therefore, such a profound responsibility – to build the more perfect union of our founders' dreams.

In the span of 100 years, we have raised the vast majority of our citizens from bare subsistence to considerable comfort and affluence. We have enshrined human rights, religious freedom and racial and gender equality as widely shared values to which we are collectively committed. At home and abroad, it has been our great privilege to advance the light of human liberty, to re-light the fires of freedom.

It is important to understand what brought us to this moment. Seven years ago, it was not clear to most Americans that there would be much to celebrate in the year 2000. Our nation was in the grip of economic distress, social decline, and political stalemate. America then was divided; in doubt; and asking itself, in a time of rising crime, mounting deficits, and high unemployment, "What went wrong?"

But I believed we could set things right, by abandoning the false choices that deadlocked Washington and embracing new, common-sense ideas, rooted in basic American values—of opportunity, responsibility, and community.

And so we have met the challenge of deepening deficits not by attacking government, but by reinventing it, and by acting with fiscal discipline. As a result, we turned record budget deficits into record budget surpluses.

We have met the challenge of rising crime not by debating which is better, prevention or punishment, but by doing both, and doing them better. We passed the Brady law that has kept guns out of the hands of half a million criminals and funded 100,000 more community police to make our neighborhoods safer. And today, overall crime in America is at its lowest level in 31 years.

We have met the challenge of protecting the environment not with old-style regulations but with new approaches and new technologies. We've made our economy stronger while making our air and water cleaner.

We have met the challenges facing working parents by helping more to succeed at work and at home—with new approaches like the Family and Medical Leave Act, which 20 million working parents have used to nurse a sick child or relative.

We have met the challenge of growing welfare dependency by ending welfare as we knew it and empowering millions to go to work.

We have met the challenge of engaging more of our young people in community service—through AmeriCorps. Over 150,000 AmeriCorps members have risen to that challenge, building One America, one community at a time.

We have met the challenges, and seized the opportunities, of a growing global economy with more than 270 new trade agreements that have boosted our economy and extended our values around the world.

We have met the challenge of a post Cold War world by shaping events, not by being shaped by them. From Kosovo to Northern Ireland to the Middle East, we have advanced our interests and stood strong for democracy, freedom, and peace.

In each of these areas, we have paired enduring principles with bold new policies, and replaced old ideologies with ideas that work. In 1992, Vice President Gore and I had a roadmap. In the year 2000, we have results. Twenty-million new jobs. The fastest economic growth in more than 30 years; the lowest unemployment rate and the smallest welfare rolls 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.

Not only are we experiencing a renaissance of the American economy, but a remarkable renewal of the American spirit. Tonight it is clear: thanks to the hard work of the American people, our nation is prepared for the 21st century.

The conditions we have created and the virtuous cycle we have set in motion, put us in a position to realize our founders' deepest dreams. So let us lift our sights, and take what Theodore Roosevelt called "the long look ahead."

Tonight, I ask this Congress to join me in putting aside our partisan differences to meet the big challenges of this new century. What are they? Making sure every child begins school ready to learn and graduates ready to succeed. Shining the light of prosperity in communities that have been in the shadows for far too long. Making America the safest big country in the

world. Ensuring that every older American has the secure retirement they have worked for and deserve. Giving parents the tools to succeed at work and at the most important work of all – raising their children. Making sure that our scientific progress is guided by our common values. Empowering all Americans to join the growing movement of service and citizenship. Continuing to improve the environment while strengthening the economy both at home and abroad. Seizing the opportunities of a more interconnected world to create more freedom, prosperity and peace for ourselves and our global neighbors. And finally, making America the most successful diverse democracy in the history of the world.

These are the big challenges before us. I believe we will meet them as Americans always have: with new ideas, informed by our enduring values.

Tonight, I will propose the first steps in our journey 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 new textbook, a high school education, and a job for life. Today, opportunity means something different. It means having a computer and knowing how to use it. It means higher education, 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.

new
New Opportunity Agenda

① unfinished business
 ② new initiatives
 ③ goals may not be achieved

② Community - word big challenges -
 all from - new Democratic
 Philosophy -
 intra graph. to false choice
 to Al Gore -
 end of 19th cent. said
 same - we

before opp - describe entire speech
 marry opp w/ response.
 after each section

1. conquered facious - Commun.
 2. Space - internet - science

Respond -
 form a more
 good times
 or a lifetime
 Can't get it - money
 always been great
 monumental people - terrible
 mistake

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.

**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



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Message Cover Sheet

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**SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS : *PLS DELIVER TO JOHN
PODESTA; TOM FREEDMAN; JOSH GOTTHEIMER;
MARJORIE TARMEY***

MEMORANDUM

To: John D. Podesta Date: January 21, 2000

cc: Tom Freedman
 Josh Gottheimer

From: M. Echaveste

Re: Notes and questions from 1/20/00 SOTU prep

Attached is a copy of my notes from our session with the President last night on the SOTU. What I was planning to do was to use Tom and Josh to follow up on these points, by going to the policy councils to get feedback and answers. Let me know if you have any suggestions/feedback. Thanks

Policy Questions and other Issues from 1/20/00 SOTU Prep

I. Introduction

In listing the big challenges, should have no more than ten and need to have a foreign policy goal. Suggests looking at Michael Elliott's recent book (also recent foreign affairs article) discussing that the Clinton Doctrine is based on recognition of the interconnectedness of the world and Clinton's insistence in being part of every network, whether APEC, NATO, business, UN, etc.

II. Education

- A. The Schumer/college, gear up-big idea that needs to be clearly set up as big
- B. Charter Schools-take credit for increase, started with x, now we have y.
- C. School repair-let's make clear what this investment this year will mean in number of schools repaired, children helped

III. Work/Families

- A. Adoption-what have we done, how many kids have been helped, thank Congress for assisting in providing assistance to kids aging out of foster care-this may be where to give First Lady credit
- B. Explain how the housing vouchers work, make it more real (may have to cut this section, if speech too long)
- C. Child care---this is big investment, are we only helping 150,000 children, seems too few-how are we counting
- D. Health care-needs to be big (this and education are the big proposals). May need to recognize that despite best efforts, number of uninsured has grown, but here's what we're doing to help, medicare buyin, chips parents (with respect to this last one, how does it work, parents have to contribute?)
- E. Mental health-what did we say last year about Mrs. Gore's leadership-did we mention conference-do we refer to her again on this issue, or another? (could do homeless and refer to the housing vouchers??)
- F. Equal pay-recognize what women have accomplished then make point of disparity in pay

- G. New initiative to train ex-offenders, should this be in section on crime and drug treatment
- H. New Markets--want to be clear on what we're saying in this section. Last year we said that this effort would lead to 15 billion in capital, etc., now we're saying we're doubling our commitment and that will lead to 12 billion---explain, let's be clear
- I. Farming--don't refer to new markets, that won't make sense to farmer but do say very clearly that "We simply must do more to strengthen the family farm safety net"

IV. Foreign Policy

- A. Again, set forth a theory of our foreign policy engagement--It's not enough to be the most powerful, are we going to be a good neighbor. Maybe not hit the "new isolationism", but explain the interconnectedness
- B. Add biological/chemical threats when we discuss cyber terrorism--aren't we making an investment in countering bioterrorism?

V. Responsibility/Crime

- A. Rewrite the gun laws paragraph--give Gore credit for casting the tie-breaking vote in Senate and then ask House to finish the work
- B. What exactly is our gun/state license proposal
- C. Recognize that there are some gun manufacturers who want to work with us, and implore the others to join this effort
- D. Maybe refer to Tom Mauser in the Littleton section--we need some drama [should think if this is too reminiscent of what we did last year when we referred to the Jonesboro mom who is now a gun control advocate]
- E. Don't refer to national grassroots campaign to end youth violence, since it's not really underway (maybe should list as part of all our partnership efforts)

VI. Environment

- A. Refer to great lakes initiative
- B. Have we really protected more land since roosevelt (both teddy and fdr?)--how are we keeping score? Monuments, roadless, what are we including in that tally?

- C. Lands Legacy-check last year's language-didn't we propose permanent funding last year [asked in an earlier conversation if our proposal was close to Landrieux's, because we needed an advocate in congress so we could actually get something done]
- D. Why don't we say something about the livability agenda
- E. Global climate-maybe we should do this in science/tech section. What we're doing is disproving the "big idea that the only way to develop, whether in West Virginia or India, is to despoil the environment-we're showing that you don't have to do that through innovations in science and tech. Also the auto partnership is not a new proposal, PNGV is already underway. Maybe the way to do this is refer to the progress with PNGV and also the effort two years ago with National Homebuilders, building energy efficient home

VII. Science/Tech

- A. Life expectancy-not just living longer, living healthier
- B. Parkinson's disease-wasn't there a recent genetic discovery that may lead to breakthrough that came out of our genome effort (we need this especially if we're going to have Fox in the box)
- C. Need to talk about space effort and the benefits of out space research to life here on earth---don't let recent failures make us shy about this effort-many a nobel prize winner failed lots of times before succeeding
- D. Our 3 billion for the 21st Century Research Fund-one year money??? All of it, or just NIH

VIII. Community

- A. We need to challenge seniors to use their later years productively in helping our communities
- B. Don't highlight Byrd, Shepard-rather do something like "Here we are trying to make peace in Northern Ireland, MidEast-but let's face fact that right here at home a black man was dragged to his death, a young man was killed because he was gay, a filipino man was shot to death, jewish children were shot---because they were different. This was in our country-that is not the American way-we must celebrate diversity, not just tolerate-that's why we must pass hate crimes law, pass ENDA

- IX. Closing—is it the seventh or eighth SOTU—look at millenium speech (as delivered) for closing language especially on “when your dreams outnumber your memories you will stay young, and America will be forever young

— EYES ONLY —

Draft7e 01/23/00 3:10pm

**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 ended the 20th Century, and now begin the 21st, at a high point in our history. There is no better moment to act on our hopes for our children. No better moment to dream new dreams for our nation.

We are achieving an economic revolution. 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 lowest African-American and Hispanic unemployment rate on record; the highest home ownership ever; the first back-to-back budget surpluses in 42 years – and the largest budget surplus in history.

Next month, as we mark the 107th month of this economic expansion, America will achieve the longest period of prosperity in our entire history.

Our economic revolution has been matched by a remarkable revival of the American spirit. 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, sending teen births down seven years in a row and adoptions up by 30 percent? Seven million of our fellow citizens have broken the bonds of poverty. Seven million Americans have moved from welfare to work.

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

As always, most of the credit for what we have achieved belongs to the American people. You work every day to pay your taxes, raise your families and live your dreams. Thanks to you, our nation is prepared for the new century.

My gratitude also goes to all of you 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.

In 1993 we passed an historic deficit reduction plan that helped put America on track to the longest economic expansion in our history. Tonight I want to recognize a man who played a key role in that effort, my first Secretary of the Treasury, your former colleague and always a true American statesman, Lloyd Bentsen.

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 gridlock, and discredited government. In 1992, at a time of rising crime, mounting deficits, and high unemployment, the title of a best-selling book asked: "What went wrong?"

But in the best traditions of our nation, from 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, responsibility from all and a community of all Americans.

That's how we turned decades of record deficits into back-to-back record surpluses – not by discarding government but by reinventing it, and moving forward with fiscal discipline. That's how we have cut crime – not by debating prevention or 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 by pitting economic growth against environmental progress, but by pursuing both.

Opportunity and responsibility: That's how we ended welfare as we knew it. 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 are opening the doors 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. That's how we have seized the opportunities of a global era – with 270 new agreements to expand trade and open markets for American products. And that's how we are meeting the threats to peace by standing against ethnic and religious hatred, and standing up for our interests and values around the world.

In 1992, Vice President Gore and I had a roadmap. Today we have results. But we have work to do and great goals to reach. We will get there only if we stay on the path that got us here. Building on our progress ... always moving forward ... always gaining ground.

But we must not let our renewed confidence grow into complacency. Because you can't gain ground if you're standing still. For too long this Congress has been standing still on some of our most pressing national priorities. So let's get moving.

I ask you again this year to set aside the surplus to pay down the debt. To save social security, and extend its life the next 50 years. I ask you to secure Medicare so that this generation of older Americans -- and the next -- never have to worry about medical care. And let us provide a prescription drug benefit so that no senior has to choose between medicine and food.

I ask you to pass a real patients bill of rights. Pass common-sense gun-safety legislation. Pass meaningful hate crimes legislation. And I ask you again to raise the minimum wage.

But that will only be the start of our journey. Now we must lift our sights and take what Theodore Roosevelt at the dawn of the last century called "the long look ahead."

We live in revolutionary times. The way we communicate. The way we work. The way we learn. The way we live. The way we are and the people we are becoming. We have not only passed a point in time, we have crossed our bridge into the 21st century. We must now shape a 21st century American revolution of opportunity, responsibility, and community, equal to the challenges of our times. America is an ongoing revolution. We are, as we were in the beginning, a new nation.

The first American revolution was not won with a single shot. The continent was not settled in a single day. The challenge of expanding freedom has not been accomplished with one march -- but requires constant commitment and sacrifice. And always with our eyes on the prize. The dreams that drive us on are always bold. But the lesson of our history and the lesson of the last seven years is that we make great strides step by step.

OPPORTUNITY AND RESPONSIBILITY IN EDUCATION

Our first steps into the 21st Century must be the right steps. We need first and foremost a 21st century revolution in education, guided by our faith that all our children can learn and that all our people can succeed.

For seven years we have pursued a fundamental strategy on education: Invest more, yet 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 Congress has supported our effort to hire 100,000 new, qualified teachers, to lower class sizes in the early grades, for two years in a row. This year, I call on Congress to make it three in a row.

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-ferd] Elementary in South Carolina. Classified five years ago as one of the state's worst-performing schools, Beaufort embraced accountability and higher academic standards, and started afterschool and summer school programs to help students to

meet those standards. 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. The principal of Beaufort, Ruth Summerlin, is with us here tonight. Thank you for proving what all 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 many states and districts have managed to turn around their worst-performing schools—or shut them down and allow parents to choose other public schools for their children. Last fall, Congress passed my plan to give districts more resources to do the same. This year, let's double that investment. And let's give bonuses to states that succeed in making scores go up across the board.

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.

We know that children who learn early learn best. And since 1993, we've put over 160,000 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. If we do this, we can build the foundation for universal pre-school for every four-year-old in America.

We know that if we want our children to learn, we need good teachers. Tonight, I propose a \$1 billion initiative to bring the best and the brightest into teaching, to reward good teachers, and to ensure that bad ones leave the classroom, swiftly and fairly.

We know that a third of all schools in America are in serious disrepair -- with leaky roofs and antiquated electrical wiring. Tonight, I propose a new, \$1.3 billion to help 5,000 schools make immediate, urgent repairs. 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.

When I became President, there was just one independent public charter school in all America. Today there are 1700. My budget assures that we will meet our goal of funding 3000, so that when parents choose a public school they have real choice.

We know that to make the American Dream more achievable, we must make college more affordable. For seven years, we have taken actions, on a bipartisan basis, to reach that goal: more Pell grants, more-affordable student loans, education IRAs, and our HOPE scholarship tax cut. Our efforts are clearly paying off. Today, 67 percent of students who graduate high school go on to college, up almost 10 percent since 1993. Yet still, millions of middle class families are feeling the strain of paying college tuition. They need help.

In an economy that increasingly runs on brain power, we should give tax relief to people who are investing in education. My budget provides a landmark \$30-billion college opportunity tax cut, to help millions of middle-class families pay for college. It will give families a tax deduction for up to \$10,000 in tuition costs--providing as much as \$2,800 in much needed tax relief. With this new college opportunity tax cut, plus Hope Scholarships and other aid, we can say that every American who wants to go to college can go.

We must also say to middle school students from disadvantaged backgrounds, who may think college is unaffordable, or not for them, that it is for them. My budget doubles to 1.4 million the number of at-risk middle school students who receive mentoring by college students. It offers disadvantaged students the same test prep courses wealthier students use to boost their scores on college entrance exams. And it provides grants to colleges to help disadvantaged students succeed once they're in college.

If you have any doubt that by reaching across party lines, we can lift the lives of children, consider this: the thirty percent increase in the number of children adopted out of foster care. The first real increase in thirty years. And it happened because a bipartisan majority worked with us to make it happen. And 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 has led in this effort, someone who has worked tirelessly for children as long as I have known her: Hillary Rodham Clinton.

REWARDING WORK AND STRENGTHENING FAMILIES

We need a 21st Century revolution to reward work and strengthen families. That has been the basic goal of so much of what we have done – from reforming welfare to raising the minimum wage. When you work hard and play by the rules, you should be rewarded. From your standard of living to your self-respect.

One of the most powerful incentives to work has been the Earned Income Tax Credit, a targeted tax cut for 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 greatly expand the EITC, and we did. As a result, in 1998 alone the EITC

helped more than 4.3 million Americans work their way into the middle class – double the number in 1993.

Tonight, I propose another major expansion of the EITC. We should reduce the marriage penalty for the EITC, making sure that it rewards marriage, and family, just as it rewards work; and we should 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. They're working hard to reach the middle class. And we should help them.

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 funds for 110,000 more working families to live closer to the workplace. This year, lets more than double that number. If we want people to go to work, they have to be able to get to work.

We must never forget the Americans who have no home but the shelters or the streets. At a time of prosperity, we must dedicate ourselves to ending homelessness and ensuring that all Americans – every veteran, every person with a mental illness, every family – have a place to call home. I want to thank someone who has made that her personal mission. Who is working day after day directly with homeless people Tipper Gore.

Working parents need quality, affordable child care. Many spend up to a quarter of their income on child care. Last year, we helped parents provide care for about 1.75 million children. But that's only one tenth of those eligible under federal law. My child care initiative, along with the funds secured in welfare reform, would make child care better, safer, and more affordable for another 650,000 children.

To help millions of parents with moderate incomes, we should expand the child care tax credit. And let's take the next big step. Let's make the tax credit refundable for low-income families. For those making \$TK a year – too little to earn a refund today – that means \$TK more for child-care costs. Let's get this done. Parents should be able to balance work and family – not have to choose between them.

From my first days as President, we have worked to give families better access to better health care. In 1993, many workers lost their coverage when they changed or lost their jobs; many lost their jobs when they took time off to care for a sick loved one. And when employers failed to provide it, many working families had nowhere to turn to provide health care for their children.

Working together, we have changed that: by providing family and medical leave; by protecting coverage between jobs; and by passing a Children's Health Insurance Program. In less than a year, enrollment in CHIP has doubled, to 2 million children. Our goal is to cover up to 5 million; so we're well on our way. The more children we cover, the more can begin healthy lives: the childhood immunization rate is now 90 percent, an all-time high.

But there are too many – far too many – uninsured children. To enroll more of them, we should go where they're found – schools, churches, child-care centers – and do it there. And

let's take an even bigger step. In four out of five cases, uninsured kids have uninsured parents. So let's do what Vice President Gore suggests and enroll the parents, too. I propose new legislation to make these parents eligible for the programs that cover their kids.

And let's give a real, affordable option to the fastest growing group of uninsured: people between 55 and 65 who lose their coverage. Last year, I proposed that we let them buy into Medicare. This year, I propose we also give them a tax credit, to make this option more affordable.

We must also do more to care for the caregivers – the record numbers of American families providing for aging or ailing loved ones at home. More and more this is a common choice, but rarely an easy – or inexpensive – one. Last year, I proposed a \$1,000 tax credit for long-term care. This year, let's triple that – to \$3,000. That would cover up to 60 percent of a family's long-term care costs. Let's recognize and reward the sacrifice they're making.

If we really want to reward work and family, let's make sure that men and women get equal pay for equal work. Working women have made significant strides: more single mothers are working than ever, and the women's unemployment rate is the lowest in almost 50 years. But women earn less than 77 cents for every dollar men earn. That's just not good enough. We should pass the Paycheck Fairness Act. My budget also provides much needed resources to enforce present equal pay laws, and to train more women for high-paying, high-tech jobs.

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

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

We have already begun 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.

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.

And to absent parents who owe child support, we should pass legislation that says: we'll help you do right by your children, but from now on, you have to go to work, and pay them what you owe.

RESPONSIBILITY AND CRIME

Crime in America has dropped every year for the past seven years -- the longest continuous decline 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 do more to keep guns out of the hands of criminals and juveniles. Last year, Congress considered common-sense gun safety legislation to require Brady background checks at gun shows, child safety locks for all new handguns, and a ban on the importation of large-capacity ammunition clips. In the face of enormous pressure from the gun lobby, the Senate, acting with courage and responsibility, and with a tie-breaking vote by the Vice President, passed the legislation. This year, I hope the House will finally follow suit. The lives of our children depend on it.

Last year, in Littleton, Colorado, we all saw what can happen when guns are allowed to fall into the wrong hands. One of the students killed at Columbine High School was Daniel Mauser, age 15. Daniel was an amazing kid, a straight-A student, a good skier. It is hard, maybe impossible, to comprehend the grief his father Tom must feel. But Tom has translated that grief into action. Earlier this month, he took a leave of absence from his job to advocate for tougher gun safety laws. His presence here is an inspiration. Passing 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 require licenses for handgun 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 must do more. I propose to 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. I thank those gun manufacturers who have worked on this. And I invite all manufacturers to help us keep guns out of the wrong hands.

Every parent I know worries about violence in the media. 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 programs and video and Internet games. This year, I ask the industry to go farther. Let's do as the First Lady has suggested, and give parents what they need: a single, voluntary rating system for all their children's entertainment -- a system that is easy to understand and enforce.

Every year, hundreds of thousands of offenders leave our prisons and jails, only to wind up back in trouble with the law. More often than not, drugs are a major part of the problem. Two-thirds of ex-offenders who are sent back to prison are drug abusers. But if they get drug treatment, they are up to 70 percent less likely to commit another crime. We must provide them with that treatment, along with regular drug testing and a simple bargain: stay clean and you stay free; do drugs and you do more time. I also propose a new initiative to train, counsel, and more carefully monitor ex-offenders so that they can become responsible citizens, family members, and employees.

OPENING NEW MARKETS

For our economy to continue enjoying rapid growth without inflation, we need a 21st Century revolution to open new markets. It is vital that businesses find new opportunities and new workers. I believe they 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 potential in America's new markets.

Now, more than ever, we can expand the circle of opportunity 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?

Businesses should have the same incentives to invest in America's new markets as they have to invest in foreign markets. In this year's budget, I call on Congress to double our New Markets Tax Credit, to spur \$15 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. I thank you for your commitment and I pledge to work with you.

Last summer, I became the first President to visit an Indian reservation since Franklin Roosevelt. That's far too long. My budget increases our investment in health care, education,

law enforcement, and infrastructure by more than \$1 billion. In this new century, we should honor our historic responsibility to the first Americans -- Native Americans.

We must also fulfill our obligation to our farming communities, the lifeblood of our land. When I signed the farm bill in 1996, I feared it would work well in good times but not in bad -- especially for family farmers. In recent years, they have endured droughts, floods and historically low prices due to financial crises abroad. We simply must change the Farm Bill and strengthen the Farm Safety Net.

This spring, I will lead a New Markets tour to focus on the "digital divide" -- between those with access to the new economy and those without it. The technology that drives our expansion also creates tools to ensure that everyone, from the city to the farm to the reservation, can share in our prosperity. My budget creates technology centers in 1,000 neighborhoods across our land -- connecting poor communities to the economic mainstream. It also mobilizes the combined force of public, private, and nonprofit sectors to increase Internet access in low-income areas. Every American must have the tools to succeed.

GLOBAL CHANGE AND AMERICAN LEADERSHIP

It is not enough to master the possibilities of the new economy at home. We must also lead in the revolution that is reshaping the global economy -- and indeed the entire globe.

At the dawn of this new century, the economic and military might of America are unrivaled. These are the measures of American power, as they have long been. But the central reality of our time is globalization -- a process tearing down barriers between nations, peoples, economies, and cultures so that what happens anywhere is felt everywhere. The change can be liberating and threatening. But the bottom line is clear: The world is coming together around ideals Americans have long proclaimed, fought for and tried to live. And it is our open, creative society that stands to benefit more than any other.

Globalization is irreversible. The way to advance our interests is to stand at the center of every vital global network. America will remain a strong leader by being a good partner -- to old allies and to new ones, and to nations that need a helping hand. And we will remain true to what makes us Americans by standing strong for our values.

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 growing 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. What we seek is a global economy based on the rule of law.

That is why China should join the WTO and live under the same trade rules America does. For America's companies and workers, this will open 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.

When we engage in the global economy, we are investing in our shared future. Growth from trade is vital not just 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 to reduce the debts that cripple the world's poorest nations. I ask Congress to support that effort, and to finalize our plans to open new trade opportunities with Africa and the Caribbean Basin. If we do so, we will help Americans master the new economy . . . and help others to become masters of their own future.

Still, our modern world is bedeviled by our most ancient failing – fear of those who are different from us. In too many places, that fear is exploited by unscrupulous leaders clinging to power or waging war on their neighbors. History teaches that big wars start small. And when human beings anywhere are singled out for destruction, it is our common humanity that suffers.

America cannot prevent every conflict or stop every outrage. But where our interests are at stake and we can make a difference, we must be peacemakers. We should be proud of America's role in bringing the Middle East closer than ever to comprehensive peace. [Update; essential that America does its share.] We should be proud of our role in building peace from Northern Ireland, to East Timor, to Africa . . . in promoting reconciliation between Greece and Turkey . . . and in defending human rights and religious freedom.

And we should be proud of the men and women of our armed forces who stopped the ethnic cleansing in Kosovo, and made it possible for a million innocent people to return to their homes. Today, 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, each in his own way, has given his best – and America's best – to the cause of peace. In Kosovo, when Slobodan Milosevic unleashed his terror, Captain John Cherrey was one of the brave airmen who turned the tide – flying straight into the teeth of Serbian air defenses to bring home the pilot of a downed American plane. And in Northern Ireland, when the peace process stalled, I asked the man who had done so much to start it to go back again to save it. And now, thanks to George Mitchell, the people of Northern Ireland finally have a working government representing all parties. Captain Cherrey, Senator Mitchell, you have our gratitude, and our promise to finish the work you helped begin.

A central challenge of this new century is whether our former adversaries, Russia and China, emerge as stable, prosperous, democratic partners of the United States.

Today, Russia is weakened by the legacy of communism, by economic crisis, by a cruel and futile war in Chechnya. But so much else has changed: 5,000 Soviet nuclear weapons dismantled; Russian troops serving by our side, keeping peace in the Balkans. Russia's long journey to democracy may be difficult, it may not be complete; but it is profoundly important to America and the world. A generation from now, let it be said we did our part.

In China, we must promote our interests with firmness, but not in fear. China cannot buy stability and stature at the expense of freedom. But let us not isolate China from the global forces of change. We want to see China on the inside, playing by the rules, not on the outside denying them.

We face another challenge: whether terrorists and hostile nations will acquire new means to undermine our defenses. The same advances that have shrunk cell phones to fit in the palms of our hands can also make weapons of terror – chemical, biological, nuclear – easier to conceal and easier to use.

We must meet this threat. By working with Russia to keep deadly weapons and materials secure and continuing to reduce our nuclear arsenals; by restraining nuclear and missile programs in North Korea and Iran; by preventing Iraq from threatening its neighbors; and by strengthening global standards against proliferation. I am committed to working with the Senate – on a bipartisan basis – to build a consensus for the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty.

America is increasing its preparedness for potential biological attack, and developing a system to defend ourselves against the missiles of outlaw nations – while working to preserve our Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty with Russia. My budget devotes \$2 billion to protect our vital computer systems from hackers and criminals in any corner of any country.

To have a more stable world, we must narrow the gap between rich and poor. We cannot accept a world in which a part of humanity lives on the cutting edge of the new economy while another lives on the bare edge of survival. Expanded trade is part of the answer. But the real answer is freedom.

From Nigeria to Indonesia, more people won the right to choose their leaders in 1999 than in 1989, the year the Berlin Wall fell. Yet new democracies need help in delivering for their people. We must stand by countries like Colombia, fighting for its own people's lives – and for our children's lives – against the poison of drug trafficking. I have proposed a two-year, \$1.6 billion package to help Colombia; and I count on your support. And if we want to put the drug lords out of business, let's go after what they value most: their money. This year, I will propose legislation to crack down harder on money laundering, here and around the world.

America must help more nations to break the bonds of disease that hold down their people. Last year in Africa, AIDS killed ten times as many people as war did. My budget invests \$150 million in the global fight against this and other infectious killers. And I will ask the world to join us in a new initiative to speed the delivery and development of vaccines. 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, together, lift millions of lives.

All this comes down to a single central challenge, the most important one of all, will America continue to lead. In the 20th Century, America was thrust into global leadership by the forces of history. Now, America must choose: to direct the new forces of history or be driven by them.

The choice is clear. America must not grow complacent; we cannot presume that the fight for freedom is fully won. No peace can endure unless it is backed by the leadership of great nations. So America must lead boldly and consistently and without reservation. Because freedom is always in America's interest.

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 one percent of our budget that supports our international engagement and keeps our soldiers out of war. Last year, Congress worked with me to maintain that commitment and to resume paying our UN dues and arrears. Let's do it again this year. And let's remember that building a stronger global community will only strengthen our own community here at home.

RESPONSIBILITY, OPPORTUNITY, AND THE ENVIRONMENT

We have no higher obligation to our children, and their children, than to be wise stewards of our air, water, and land. I am grateful for the many opportunities the Vice President and I have had to honor this commitment – and to finally put to rest the notion that you can't expand your economy and protect the environment at the same time. For as our economy has grown, we have rid countless neighborhoods of toxic waste; ensured cleaner drinking water for millions of families; and taken unprecedented action to improve the air we breathe.

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 are protecting for all Americans, for all time. Not since the days of Theodore Roosevelt has the nation come together to save so much precious land.

But our communities 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 our wildlands, protect our coastlines, and restore our wildlife. This endowment would provide nearly \$1.5 billion each year – by far the largest, most enduring investment in land preservation ever proposed.

Last year, the Vice President launched a major new effort to help make communities more livable – so children will grow up next to parks rather than parking lots, and parents don't sit in endless traffic when they could be home with their kids. Tonight, we propose to strengthen this initiative with new funding to help communities build advanced transit systems and save farms, parks, and other precious open spaces.

As we work to protect our land, we must help other nations that are struggling to protect theirs. The rainforests are the lungs of our planet – yet they are disappearing at the rate of more than 50 acres a minute. Tonight, I propose a new plan to help countries from the Amazon to the

Congo Basin strengthen their economies by preserving, rather than destroying, 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 reduce emissions of greenhouse gases now, the seas will rise and natural disasters will become more frequent with each passing year.

There is no question that we can reduce greenhouse gas pollution. Thanks to remarkable new technologies, I am absolutely convinced that we can do it in ways that will produce more widespread, more sustainable economic growth.

In California, the Departments of Energy and Housing and Urban Development helped build a moderate-income housing community with windows that keep out four or five times as much heat and cold as ordinary windows do. With these and other readily-available technologies, we thought we'd be able to save homeowners 40% off their energy bills. It turns out, they're saving 65%.

Last week, at the Detroit Auto Show, the world got a chance to see cars we've helped automakers develop which use advanced materials and dual fuel sources to get 70 to 80 miles a gallon. Next on the horizon are even more efficient cars powered by fuel cells that emit pure water and nothing else. Before you know it, we'll be producing clean fuels from crops and getting the equivalent of hundreds of miles from a gallon of gas.

To spur these new technologies, I propose giving our families a tax credit worth up to \$3,000 a car when new super-efficient vehicles hit the showroom floor. But let me be clear: We have the technology to make all new cars more fuel efficient right now. I want to thank the automakers who have joined our Partnership for New Generation Vehicles and I ask more of them to join with us to design a new strategy for reversing the recent decline in average fuel economy. You've committed to higher efficiency in Europe. Let's do the same right here at home.

We must also meet this worldwide challenge by giving developing countries the tools to grow in ways that strengthen their economies and protect the environment. So tonight, I propose a new [\$100 million] initiative to help these countries adopt the newest clean-energy technologies. It is simply no longer true that to prosper you have to pollute the air and endanger the Earth. Nations that long for the level of prosperity we take for granted need not follow the old patterns of growth that brought us global warming.

THE OPPORTUNITY AND RESPONSIBILITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Innovations in science and technology are key not only to enhancing the environment. Sustained investments in scientific research will also yield dramatic, almost miraculous, advances in the quality of our lives.

In the last century alone, the life expectancy for the average American has increased from 47 to 77 – thanks to discoveries such as penicillin and the development of vaccines for many childhood diseases. Today, we are on the cusp of far greater advances that will not only help us live far longer but far better. Later this year, researchers will finish the first complete sequence of the human genome – the very blueprint of life. Since so many diseases have a genetic component, the completion of this project will lead to a revolution in our ability to detect, treat, and prevent diseases from Alzheimer’s to cancer to AIDS.

Consider the implications: if we delay the onset of Alzheimer’s by just five years, we could empty half the nursing home beds in America. If we delay the onset of adult diabetes, we could save \$30 billion in health care costs.

Thanks to the Human Genome Project, scientists have recently identified three of the genes that cause Parkinson’s Disease – and they are already working to create precision proteins that will turn off these faulty genes for good. Not if but when they succeed, millions and men and women will be cured of this dread disease – even those whose symptoms have not even begun to emerge.

[insert acknowledgment and introduction of Michael J. Fox]

Advances in science and technology will surely produce quantum leaps in many other fields as well. In the future we will have new materials ten times as strong as steel but ten times lighter ... computers that can translate spoken English into foreign languages and vice versa as fast as you can speak ... devices the size of sugar cubes that can store all the information contained the Library of Congress.

These and other innovations 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 the rise of the Internet and other information technologies. And the high-tech jobs this industry creates are high-wage jobs – paying nearly 80 percent more than the private-sector average.

For all these reasons, my budget will include a \$3 billion increase in the 21st Century Research Fund. We will increase support for biomedical research, information technology, clean energy, and university-based research. We will also help propel NASA’s never-ending quest in space. NASA’s missions to Mars and into the heavens beyond are just as important to humankind today as the brave sea voyages of the explorers hundreds of years ago. As President Kennedy once said, “We choose to do these things not because they are easy but because they are hard.”

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.

If we do all these things, we can ensure that the march of human discovery will only quicken in the century before us -- enhancing life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness in ways that we can only begin to imagine today.

COMMUNITY

At a time of unprecedented prosperity, we have a unique opportunity and responsibility to reach out beyond ourselves to help those who are less fortunate and to build stronger communities. The most important work of America occurs outside the realm of government -- in our houses of worship, in our clubs and charities and volunteer groups. Service is not only the way we tackle some of our most pressing problems -- from drug abuse and homelessness, to health care and crime -- it is one of the best ways to come face to face with our common humanity. Our differences suddenly become less important when you are working side by side with your neighbors to rebuild a church, battle a flood or feed the hungry.

So, our long look ahead must include ways to widen the circle of citizen service until it embraces every American. We are already in the midst of a new service movement in America. And one of the things I am most proud of is our efforts to support that movement through greater partnerships with private citizens. This is a new model for government that energizes private resources for noble public ends. Four years ago, I asked corporate leaders to join with us in a partnership to provide jobs to those leaving welfare. Today, 12,000 companies have hired nearly 650,000 former welfare recipients. Over the past seven years we have created many other successful partnerships. To fight drug abuse and AIDS. To teach our young people to read. To Save America's Treasures. To fight teen pregnancy. To fight crime and promote community policing. To promote racial healing and build One America. To prevent youth violence. To create cleaner cars. To help our young people serve.

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.

If we really do believe that charity begins at home, we must do more to reward lower and middle income Americans who tithe and contribute to charities. Right now, only people who earn enough to itemize can claim a tax deduction for charitable contributions. Tonight, I propose new tax incentives that will allow low and middle income citizens to claim that same deduction. That will not only help them, it will be an incentive for more Americans to give to worthy causes.

There are more than twice as many seniors today as there were in 1960. And by 2030, the senior population will grow by over 75 percent. I hope to be one of them. This is a huge army of workers and volunteers who want and deserve a chance to serve.

So, tonight, I say to seniors across America – we need you. We need your work, your wisdom and your service. Get involved if you are not and stay involved if you are.

We must do more to bring more people into the circle of citizenship and service – from supporting the efforts of faith-based organizations to increasing our investment, as we are this year, in teaching English and civics to new immigrants.

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. Two generations ago, Franklin Roosevelt used the new medium of radio for his fireside chats. Starting next month, I will use the new medium of the Internet to launch Webside Chats. These interactive discussions will give more Americans the opportunity to share their views and be a part of our national community.

America is demographically undergoing one of the great transformations in our history. Within ten years there will be no majority race in our largest state, California. In a little more than 50 years there is likely to be no majority race in America. We know what America will look like then. The question before us tonight is: What kind of America will we be? In a more

interconnected world, will we make diversity our greatest strength? As we have seen in recent years, from Northern Ireland to Africa ... from Bosnia to the Middle East, racial and ethnic conflict too often spark war and terror. And no country is exempt from hatred – even our own.

We have seen a man dragged to death in Texas simply because he was black. A young man murdered in Wyoming simply because he was gay. In just the last year, we've seen the shootings and killings of African Americans, Asian Americans, and Jewish children simply because of who they were. We must draw the line. This is not the American way. In America, we not only tolerate diversity, we celebrate it. Diversity is our greatest strength – and we must protect it. We must without further delay, pass the Hate Crimes Prevention Act and the Employment Non-Discrimination Act.

The work of building One America must be the work of every American. 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. That is why 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 religious leaders to corporate leaders to lawyers to make sure every American can help build the One America of our dreams.

This fall, at the White House, one of America's leading scientists, said something we all need to remember, all human beings genetically are 99.9 percent. Science affirms what faith has always taught us: the differences between us are nothing compared to our common humanity.

My fellow Americans, each time I prepare for the state of the union, I approach 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, with a new millennium spread out before us. Behind us we see the expanse of American achievement, and ahead even wider frontiers of possibility.

So, as we take our long look ahead, we must ask ourselves: How will we make the most of this moment of promise?

Tonight, let us pledge to ourselves and to our children:

At a time of undreamed of economic growth, we will, step by step, bring prosperity in reach of every American in every community.

At a time of record surpluses, we will, step by step, make America debt free for the first time since 1835.

At a time when Americans are living longer than ever, let's make sure they live healthier than ever. Let's provide quality, affordable healthcare for everyone in America.

At a time when science and technology are transforming our world, let us realize their full promise and, at every step, harness our progress to our values.

At a time when we have proved we can grow the economy and protect the environment, let's also prove that, step by step, we can reverse climate change and make our planet a more livable place.

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

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

At a time when knowledge is the key to the new economy, let's guarantee that every child will begin school ready to learn and will graduate ready to succeed.

At a time when globalization brings both new promise and new perils, let us continue to be the world's indispensable nation.

At a time when America is growing more diverse than ever, let's finally become what we've always pledged to be – one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

We know we will not be able to do this in one year alone. Or even in the decade ahead. But we will reach these goals, the way we always have: working together, moving ahead, step by step, as One America.

When the framers were crafting our Constitution, Benjamin Franklin was often seen in Independence Hall looking at a painting of the sun low on the horizon. When, at long last, the Constitution finally was signed, Mr. Franklin, said: "I have often wondered whether that sun was rising or setting. Today I have the happiness to know it is a rising sun." Today the sun continues to shine brightly on America, as each successive generation relights the fire of freedom. Even after 224 years, the American revolution continues -- and we remain a new nation. As long as our dreams outweigh our memories, America will be forever young. And that is our destiny.

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**

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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 ended the 20th Century, and now begin the 21st, at a high point in our history. There is no better moment to act on our hopes for our children. No better moment to dream new dreams for our nation.

We are achieving an economic revolution. 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 lowest African-American and Hispanic unemployment rate on record; the highest home ownership ever; the first back-to-back budget surpluses in 42 years – and the largest budget surplus in history.

Next month, as we mark the 107th month of this economic expansion, America will achieve the longest period of prosperity in our entire history.

Our economic revolution has been matched by a remarkable revival of the American spirit. 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, sending teen births down seven years in a row and adoptions up by 30 percent? Seven million of our fellow citizens have broken the bonds of poverty. Seven million Americans have moved from welfare to work.

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

As always, most of the credit for what we have achieved belongs to the American people. You work every day to pay your taxes, raise your families and live your dreams. Thanks to you, our nation is prepared for the new century.

My gratitude also goes to all of you 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.

In 1993 we passed an historic deficit reduction plan that helped put America on track to the longest economic expansion in our history. Tonight I want to recognize a man who played a

key role in that effort, my first Secretary of the Treasury, your former colleague and always a true American statesman, Lloyd Bentsen.

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 gridlock, and discredited government. In 1992, at a time of rising crime, mounting deficits, and high unemployment, the title of a best-selling book asked: “What went wrong?”

But in the best traditions of our nation, from 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, responsibility from all and a community of all Americans.

That’s how we turned decades of record deficits into back-to-back record surpluses – not by discarding government but by reinventing it, and moving forward with fiscal discipline. That’s how we have cut crime – not by debating prevention or 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 by pitting economic growth against environmental progress, but by pursuing both.

Opportunity and responsibility: That’s how we ended welfare as we knew it. 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 are opening the doors 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. That's how we have seized the opportunities of a global era – with 270 new agreements to expand trade and open markets for American products. And that's how we are meeting the threats to peace by standing against ethnic and religious hatred, and standing up for our interests and values around the world.

In 1992, Vice President Gore and I had a roadmap. Today we have results. But we have work to do and great goals to reach. We will get there only if we stay on the path that got us here. Building on our progress ... always moving forward ... always gaining ground.

But we must not let our renewed confidence grow into complacency. Because you can't gain ground if you're standing still. For too long this Congress has been standing still on some of our most pressing national priorities. So let's get moving.

I ask you again this year to set aside the surplus to pay down the debt. To save social security, and extend its life the next 50 years. I ask you to secure Medicare so that this generation of older Americans -- and the next -- never have to worry about medical care. And let us provide a prescription drug benefit so that no senior has to choose between medicine and food.

I ask you to pass a real patients bill of rights. Pass common-sense gun-safety legislation. Pass meaningful hate crimes legislation. And I ask you again to raise the minimum wage.

But that will only be the start of our journey. Now we must lift our sights and take what Theodore Roosevelt at the dawn of the last century called “the long look ahead.”

We live in revolutionary times. The way we communicate. The way we work. The way we learn. The way we live. The way we are and the people we are becoming. We have not only passed a point in time, we have crossed our bridge into the 21st century. We must now shape a 21st century American revolution of opportunity, responsibility, and community, equal to the challenges of our times. America is an ongoing revolution. We are, as we were in the beginning, a new nation.

The first American revolution was not won with a single shot. The continent was not settled in a single day. The challenge of expanding freedom has not been accomplished with one march – but requires constant commitment and sacrifice. And always with our eyes on the prize. The dreams that drive us on are always bold. But the lesson of our history and the lesson of the last seven years is that we make great strides step by step.

OPPORTUNITY AND RESPONSIBILITY IN EDUCATION

Our first steps into the 21st Century must be the right steps. We need first and foremost a 21st century revolution in education, guided by our faith that all our children can learn and that all our people can succeed.

For seven years we have pursued a fundamental strategy on education: Invest more, yet 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 Congress has supported our effort to hire 100,000 new, qualified teachers, to lower class sizes in the early grades, for two years in a row. This year, I call on Congress to make it three in a row.

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-ferd] Elementary in South Carolina. Classified five years ago as one of the state's worst-performing schools, Beaufort embraced accountability and higher academic standards, and started afterschool and summer school programs to help students to meet those standards. 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. The principal of Beaufort, Ruth Summerlin, is with us here tonight. Thank you for proving what all 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 many states and districts have managed to turn around their worst-performing schools—or shut them down and allow parents to choose other public schools for their children. Last fall, Congress passed my plan to give districts more resources to do the same. This year, let's double that investment. And let's give bonuses to states that succeed in making scores go up across the board.

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.

We know that children who learn early learn best. And since 1993, we've put over 160,000 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. If we do this, we can build the foundation for universal pre-school for every four-year-old in America.

We know that if we want our children to learn, we need good teachers. Tonight, I propose a \$1 billion initiative to bring the best and the brightest into teaching, to reward good teachers, and to ensure that bad ones leave the classroom, swiftly and fairly.

We know that a third of all schools in America are in serious disrepair – with leaky roofs and antiquated electrical wiring. Tonight, I propose a new, \$1.3 billion to help 5,000 schools make immediate, urgent repairs. 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.

When I became President, there was just one independent public charter school in all America. Today there are 1700. My budget assures that we will meet our goal of funding 3000, so that when parents choose a public school they have real choice.

We know that to make the American Dream more achievable, we must make college more affordable. For seven years, we have taken actions, on a bipartisan basis, to reach that goal: more Pell grants, more-affordable student loans, education IRAs, and our HOPE

scholarship tax cut. Our efforts are clearly paying off. Today, 67 percent of students who graduate high school go on to college, up almost 10 percent since 1993. Yet still, millions of middle class families are feeling the strain of paying college tuition. They need help.

In an economy that increasingly runs on brain power, we should give tax relief to people who are investing in education. My budget provides a landmark \$30-billion college opportunity tax cut, to help millions of middle-class families pay for college. It will give families a tax deduction for up to \$10,000 in tuition costs--providing as much as \$2,800 in much needed tax relief. With this new college opportunity tax cut, plus Hope Scholarships and other aid, we can say that every American who wants to go to college can go.

We must also say to middle school students from disadvantaged backgrounds, who may think college is unaffordable, or not for them, that it is for them. My budget doubles to 1.4 million the number of at-risk middle school students who receive mentoring by college students. It offers disadvantaged students the same test prep courses wealthier students use to boost their scores on college entrance exams. And it provides grants to colleges to help disadvantaged students succeed once they're in college.

If you have any doubt that by reaching across party lines, we can lift the lives of children, consider this: the thirty percent increase in the number of children adopted out of foster care. The first real increase in thirty years. And it happened because a bipartisan majority worked with us to make it happen. And 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 has led in this effort, someone who has worked tirelessly for children as long as I have known her: Hillary Rodham Clinton.

REWARDING WORK AND STRENGTHENING FAMILIES

We need a 21st Century revolution to reward work and strengthen families. That has been the basic goal of so much of what we have done – from reforming welfare to raising the minimum wage. When you work hard and play by the rules, you should be rewarded. From your standard of living to your self-respect.

One of the most powerful incentives to work has been the Earned Income Tax Credit, a targeted tax cut for 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 greatly expand the EITC, and we did. As a result, in 1998 alone the EITC helped more than 4.3 million Americans work their way into the middle class – double the number in 1993.

Tonight, I propose another major expansion of the EITC. We should reduce the marriage penalty for the EITC, making sure that it rewards marriage, and family, just as it rewards work; and we should 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. They’re working hard to reach the middle class. And we should help them.

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 funds for 110,000 more working families to live closer to the workplace. This year, lets more than double that number. If we want people to go to work, they have to be able to get to work.

We must never forget the Americans who have no home but the shelters or the streets. At a time of prosperity, we must dedicate ourselves to ending homelessness and ensuring that all Americans – every veteran, every person with a mental illness, every family – have a place to call home. I want to thank someone who has made that her personal mission. Who is working day after day directly with homeless people Tipper Gore.

Working parents need quality, affordable child care. Many spend up to a quarter of their income on child care. Last year, we helped parents provide care for about 1.75 million children. But that's only one tenth of those eligible under federal law. My child care initiative, along with the funds secured in welfare reform, would make child care better, safer, and more affordable for another 650,000 children.

To help millions of parents with moderate incomes, we should expand the child care tax credit. And let's take the next big step. Let's make the tax credit refundable for low-income families. For those making \$TK a year – too little to earn a refund today – that means \$TK more for child-care costs. Let's get this done. Parents should be able to balance work and family – not have to choose between them.

From my first days as President, we have worked to give families better access to better health care. In 1993, many workers lost their coverage when they changed or lost their jobs; many lost their jobs when they took time off to care for a sick loved one. And when employers failed to provide it, many working families had nowhere to turn to provide health care for their children.

Working together, we have changed that: by providing family and medical leave; by protecting coverage between jobs; and by passing a Children's Health Insurance Program. In less than a year, enrollment in CHIP has doubled, to 2 million children. Our goal is to cover up to 5 million; so we're well on our way. The more children we cover, the more can begin healthy lives: the childhood immunization rate is now 90 percent, an all-time high.

But there are too many – far too many – uninsured children. To enroll more of them, we should go where they're found – schools, churches, child-care centers – and do it there. And let's take an even bigger step. In four out of five cases, uninsured kids have uninsured parents. So let's do what Vice President Gore suggests and enroll the parents, too. I propose new legislation to make these parents eligible for the programs that cover their kids.

And let's give a real, affordable option to the fastest growing group of uninsured: people between 55 and 65 who lose their coverage. Last year, I proposed that we let them buy into Medicare. This year, I propose we also give them a tax credit, to make this option more affordable.

We must also do more to care for the caregivers – the record numbers of American families providing for aging or ailing loved ones at home. More and more this is a common choice, but rarely an easy – or inexpensive – one. Last year, I proposed a \$1,000 tax credit for long-term care. This year, let's triple that – to \$3,000. That would cover up to 60 percent of a family's long-term care costs. Let's recognize and reward the sacrifice they're making.

If we really want to reward work and family, let's make sure that men and women get equal pay for equal work. Working women have made significant strides: more single mothers are working than ever, and the women's unemployment rate is the lowest in almost 50 years. But women earn less than 77 cents for every dollar men earn. That's just not good enough. We should pass the Paycheck Fairness Act. My budget also provides much needed resources to enforce present equal pay laws, and to train more women for high-paying, high-tech jobs.

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

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

We have already begun 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.

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.

And to absent parents who owe child support, we should pass legislation that says: we'll help you do right by your children, but from now on, you have to go to work, and pay them what you owe.

RESPONSIBILITY AND CRIME

Crime in America has dropped every year for the past seven years -- the longest continuous decline 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 do more to keep guns out of the hands of criminals and juveniles. Last year, Congress considered common-sense gun safety legislation to require Brady background checks at gun shows, child safety locks for all new handguns, and a ban on the importation of large-capacity ammunition clips. In the face of enormous pressure from the gun lobby, the Senate, acting with courage and responsibility, and with a tie-breaking vote by the Vice President, passed the legislation. This year, I hope the House will finally follow suit. The lives of our children depend on it.

Last year, in Littleton, Colorado, we all saw what can happen when guns are allowed to fall into the wrong hands. One of the students killed at Columbine High School was Daniel Mauser, age 15. Daniel was an amazing kid, a straight-A student, a good skier. It is hard, maybe impossible, to comprehend the grief his father Tom must feel. But Tom has translated that grief into action. Earlier this month, he took a leave of absence from his job to advocate for tougher gun safety laws. His presence here is an inspiration. Passing 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 require licenses for handgun 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 must do more. I propose to 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. I thank those gun manufacturers who have worked on this. And I invite all manufacturers to help us keep guns out of the wrong hands.

Every parent I know worries about violence in the media. 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 programs and video and Internet games. This year, I ask the industry to go farther. Let's do as the First Lady has suggested, and give parents what they need: a single, voluntary rating system for all their children's entertainment -- a system that is easy to understand and enforce.

Every year, hundreds of thousands of offenders leave our prisons and jails, only to wind up back in trouble with the law. More often than not, drugs are a major part of the problem. Two-thirds of ex-offenders who are sent back to prison are drug abusers. But if they get drug treatment, they are up to 70 percent less likely to commit another crime. We must provide them

with that treatment, along with regular drug testing and a simple bargain: stay clean and you stay free; do drugs and you do more time. I also propose a new initiative to train, counsel, and more carefully monitor ex-offenders so that they can become responsible citizens, family members, and employees.

OPENING NEW MARKETS

For our economy to continue enjoying rapid growth without inflation, we need a 21st Century revolution to open new markets. It is vital that businesses find new opportunities and new workers. I believe they 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 potential in America's new markets.

Now, more than ever, we can expand the circle of opportunity 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?

Businesses should have the same incentives to invest in America's new markets as they have to invest in foreign markets. In this year's budget, I call on Congress to double our New Markets Tax Credit, to spur \$15 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. I thank you for your commitment and I pledge to work with you.

Last summer, I became the first President to visit an Indian reservation since Franklin Roosevelt. That's far too long. My budget increases our investment in health care, education, law enforcement, and infrastructure by more than \$1 billion. In this new century, we should honor our historic responsibility to the first Americans -- Native Americans.

We must also fulfill our obligation to our farming communities, the lifeblood of our land. When I signed the farm bill in 1996, I feared it would work well in good times but not in bad -- especially for family farmers. In recent years, they have endured droughts, floods and historically low prices due to financial crises abroad. We simply must change the Farm Bill and strengthen the Farm Safety Net.

This spring, I will lead a New Markets tour to focus on the "digital divide" -- between those with access to the new economy and those without it. The technology that drives our expansion also creates tools to ensure that everyone, from the city to the farm to the reservation, can share in our prosperity. My budget creates technology centers in 1,000 neighborhoods

across our land – connecting poor communities to the economic mainstream. It also mobilizes the combined force of public, private, and nonprofit sectors to increase Internet access in low-income areas. Every American must have the tools to succeed.

GLOBAL CHANGE AND AMERICAN LEADERSHIP

It is not enough to master the possibilities of the new economy at home. We must also lead in the revolution that is reshaping the global economy – and indeed the entire globe.

At the dawn of this new century, the economic and military might of America are unrivaled. These are the measures of American power, as they have long been. But the central reality of our time is globalization – a process tearing down barriers between nations, peoples, economies, and cultures so that what happens anywhere is felt everywhere. The change can be liberating and threatening. But the bottom line is clear: The world is coming together around ideals Americans have long proclaimed, fought for and tried to live. And it is our open, creative society that stands to benefit more than any other.

Globalization is irreversible. The way to advance our interests is to stand at the center of every vital global network. America will remain a strong leader by being a good partner – to old allies and to new ones, and to nations that need a helping hand. And we will remain true to what makes us Americans by standing strong for our values.

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 growing 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. What we seek is a global economy based on the rule of law.

That is why China should join the WTO and live under the same trade rules America does. For America's companies and workers, this will open 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.

When we engage in the global economy, we are investing in our shared future. Growth from trade is vital not just 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 to reduce the debts that cripple the world's poorest nations. I ask Congress to support that effort, and to finalize our plans to open new trade opportunities with Africa and the Caribbean Basin. If we do so, we will help Americans master the new economy . . . and help others to become masters of their own future.

Still, our modern world is bedeviled by our most ancient failing – fear of those who are different from us. In too many places, that fear is exploited by unscrupulous leaders clinging to

power or waging war on their neighbors. History teaches that big wars start small. And when human beings anywhere are singled out for destruction, it is our common humanity that suffers.

America cannot prevent every conflict or stop every outrage. But where our interests are at stake and we can make a difference, we must be peacemakers. We should be proud of America's role in bringing the Middle East closer than ever to comprehensive peace. [Update; essential that America does its share.] We should be proud of our role in building peace from Northern Ireland, to East Timor, to Africa . . . in promoting reconciliation between Greece and Turkey . . . and in defending human rights and religious freedom.

And we should be proud of the men and women of our armed forces who stopped the ethnic cleansing in Kosovo, and made it possible for a million innocent people to return to their homes. Today, 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, each in his own way, has given his best – and America's best – to the cause of peace. In Kosovo, when Slobodan Milosevic unleashed his terror, Captain John Cherrey was one of the brave airmen who turned the tide – flying straight into the teeth of Serbian air defenses to bring home the pilot of a downed American plane. And in Northern Ireland, when the peace process stalled, I asked the man who had done so much to start it to go back again to save it. And now, thanks to George Mitchell, the people of Northern Ireland finally have a working government representing all parties. Captain Cherrey, Senator Mitchell, you have our gratitude, and our promise to finish the work you helped begin.

A central challenge of this new century is whether our former adversaries, Russia and China, emerge as stable, prosperous, democratic partners of the United States.

Today, Russia is weakened by the legacy of communism, by economic crisis, by a cruel and futile war in Chechnya. But so much else has changed: 5,000 Soviet nuclear weapons dismantled; Russian troops serving by our side, keeping peace in the Balkans. Russia's long journey to democracy may be difficult, it may not be complete; but it is profoundly important to America and the world. A generation from now, let it be said we did our part.

In China, we must promote our interests with firmness, but not in fear. China cannot buy stability and stature at the expense of freedom. But let us not isolate China from the global forces of change. We want to see China on the inside, playing by the rules, not on the outside denying them.

We face another challenge: whether terrorists and hostile nations will acquire new means to undermine our defenses. The same advances that have shrunk cell phones to fit in the palms of our hands can also make weapons of terror – chemical, biological, nuclear – easier to conceal and easier to use.

We must meet this threat. By working with Russia to keep deadly weapons and materials secure and continuing to reduce our nuclear arsenals; by restraining nuclear and missile programs in North Korea and Iran; by preventing Iraq from threatening its neighbors; and by

strengthening global standards against proliferation. I am committed to working with the Senate – on a bipartisan basis – to build a consensus for the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty.

America is increasing its preparedness for potential biological attack, and developing a system to defend ourselves against the missiles of outlaw nations – while working to preserve our Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty with Russia. My budget devotes \$2 billion to protect our vital computer systems from hackers and criminals in any corner of any country.

To have a more stable world, we must narrow the gap between rich and poor. We cannot accept a world in which a part of humanity lives on the cutting edge of the new economy while another lives on the bare edge of survival. Expanded trade is part of the answer. But the real answer is freedom.

From Nigeria to Indonesia, more people won the right to choose their leaders in 1999 than in 1989, the year the Berlin Wall fell. Yet new democracies need help in delivering for their people. We must stand by countries like Colombia, fighting for its own people's lives – and for our children's lives – against the poison of drug trafficking. I have proposed a two-year, \$1.6 billion package to help Colombia; and I count on your support. And if we want to put the drug lords out of business, let's go after what they value most: their money. This year, I will propose legislation to crack down harder on money laundering, here and around the world.

America must help more nations to break the bonds of disease that hold down their people. Last year in Africa, AIDS killed ten times as many people as war did. My budget

invests \$150 million in the global fight against this and other infectious killers. And I will ask the world to join us in a new initiative to speed the delivery and development of vaccines. 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, together, lift millions of lives.

All this comes down to a single central challenge, the most important one of all, will America continue to lead. In the 20th Century, America was thrust into global leadership by the forces of history. Now, America must choose: to direct the new forces of history or be driven by them.

The choice is clear. America must not grow complacent; we cannot presume that the fight for freedom is fully won. No peace can endure unless it is backed by the leadership of great nations. So America must lead boldly and consistently and without reservation. Because freedom is always in America's interest.

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 one percent of our budget that supports our international engagement and keeps our soldiers out of war. Last year, Congress worked with me to maintain that commitment and to resume paying our UN dues and arrears. Let's do it

again this year. And let's remember that building a stronger global community will only strengthen our own community here at home.

RESPONSIBILITY, OPPORTUNITY, AND THE ENVIRONMENT

We have no higher obligation to our children, and their children, than to be wise stewards of our air, water, and land. I am grateful for the many opportunities the Vice President and I have had to honor this commitment – and to finally put to rest the notion that you can't expand your economy and protect the environment at the same time. For as our economy has grown, we have rid countless neighborhoods of toxic waste; ensured cleaner drinking water for millions of families; and taken unprecedented action to improve the air we breathe.

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 are protecting for all Americans, for all time. Not since the days of Theodore Roosevelt has the nation come together to save so much precious land.

But our communities 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 our wildlands, protect our coastlines, and restore our wildlife. This endowment would provide nearly \$1.5 billion each year – by far the largest, most enduring investment in land preservation ever proposed.

Last year, the Vice President launched a major new effort to help make communities more livable – so children will grow up next to parks rather than parking lots, and parents don't sit in endless traffic when they could be home with their kids. Tonight, we propose to strengthen this initiative with new funding to help communities build advanced transit systems and save farms, parks, and other precious open spaces.

As we work to protect our land, we must help other nations that are struggling to protect theirs. The rainforests are the lungs of our planet – yet they are disappearing at the rate of more than 50 acres a minute. Tonight, I propose a new plan to help countries from the Amazon to the Congo Basin strengthen their economies by preserving, rather than destroying, 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 reduce emissions of greenhouse gases now, the seas will rise and natural disasters will become more frequent with each passing year.

There is no question that we can reduce greenhouse gas pollution. Thanks to remarkable new technologies, I am absolutely convinced that we can do it in ways that will produce more widespread, more sustainable economic growth.

In California, the Departments of Energy and Housing and Urban Development helped build a moderate-income housing community with windows that keep out four or five times as

much heat and cold as ordinary windows do. With these and other readily-available technologies, we thought we'd be able to save homeowners 40% off their energy bills. It turns out, they're saving 65%.

Last week, at the Detroit Auto Show, the world got a chance to see cars we've helped automakers develop which use advanced materials and dual fuel sources to get 70 to 80 miles a gallon. Next on the horizon are even more efficient cars powered by fuel cells that emit pure water and nothing else. Before you know it, we'll be producing clean fuels from crops and getting the equivalent of hundreds of miles from a gallon of gas.

To spur these new technologies, I propose giving our families a tax credit worth up to \$3,000 a car when new super-efficient vehicles hit the showroom floor. But let me be clear: We have the technology to make all new cars more fuel efficient right now. I want to thank the automakers who have joined our Partnership for New Generation Vehicles and I ask more of them to join with us to design a new strategy for reversing the recent decline in average fuel economy. You've committed to higher efficiency in Europe. Let's do the same right here at home.

We must also meet this worldwide challenge by giving developing countries the tools to grow in ways that strengthen their economies and protect the environment. So tonight, I propose a new [\$100 million] initiative to help these countries adopt the newest clean-energy technologies. It is simply no longer true that to prosper you have to pollute the air and endanger

the Earth. Nations that long for the level of prosperity we take for granted need not follow the old patterns of growth that brought us global warming.

THE OPPORTUNITY AND RESPONSIBILITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Innovations in science and technology are key not only to enhancing the environment. Sustained investments in scientific research will also yield dramatic, almost miraculous, advances in the quality of our lives.

In the last century alone, the life expectancy for the average American has increased from 47 to 77 – thanks to discoveries such as penicillin and the development of vaccines for many childhood diseases. Today, we are on the cusp of far greater advances that will not only help us live far longer but far better. Later this year, researchers will finish the first complete sequence of the human genome – the very blueprint of life. Since so many diseases have a genetic component, the completion of this project will lead to a revolution in our ability to detect, treat, and prevent diseases from Alzheimer's to cancer to AIDS.

Consider the implications: if we delay the onset of Alzheimer's by just five years, we could empty half the nursing home beds in America. If we delay the onset of adult diabetes, we could save \$30 billion in health care costs.

Thanks to the Human Genome Project, scientists have recently identified three of the genes that cause Parkinson's Disease – and they are already working to create precision proteins

that will turn off these faulty genes for good. Not if but when they succeed, millions and men and women will be cured of this dread disease – even those whose symptoms have not even begun to emerge.

[insert acknowledgment and introduction of Michael J. Fox]

Advances in science and technology will surely produce quantum leaps in many other fields as well. In the future we will have new materials ten times as strong as steel but ten times lighter ... computers that can translate spoken English into foreign languages and vice versa as fast as you can speak ... devices the size of sugar cubes that can store all the information contained the Library of Congress.

These and other innovations 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 the rise of the Internet and other information technologies. And the high-tech jobs this industry creates are high-wage jobs – paying nearly 80 percent more than the private-sector average.

For all these reasons, my budget will include a \$3 billion increase in the 21st Century Research Fund. We will increase support for biomedical research, information technology, clean energy, and university-based research. We will also help propel NASA's never-ending quest in space. NASA's missions to Mars and into the heavens beyond are just as important to humankind today as the brave sea voyages of the explorers hundreds of years ago. As President

Kennedy once said, "We choose to do these things not because they are easy but because they are hard."

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.

If we do all these things, we can ensure that the march of human discovery will only quicken in the century before us – enhancing life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness in ways that we can only begin to imagine today.

COMMUNITY

At a time of unprecedented prosperity, we have a unique opportunity and responsibility to reach out beyond ourselves to help those who are less fortunate and to build stronger communities. The most important work of America occurs outside the realm of government – in our houses of worship, in our clubs and charities and volunteer groups. Service is not only the way we tackle some of our most pressing problems – from drug abuse and homelessness, to health care and crime -- it is one of the best ways to come face to face with our common humanity. Our differences suddenly become less important when you are working side by side with your neighbors to rebuild a church, battle a flood or feed the hungry.

So, our long look ahead must include ways to widen the circle of citizen service until it embraces every American. We are already in the midst of a new service movement in America. And one of the things I am most proud of is our efforts to support that movement through greater partnerships with private citizens. This is a new model for government that energizes private resources for noble public ends. Four years ago, I asked corporate leaders to join with us in a partnership to provide jobs to those leaving welfare. Today, 12,000 companies have hired nearly 650,000 former welfare recipients. Over the past seven years we have created many other successful partnerships. To fight drug abuse and AIDS. To teach our young people to read. To

Save America's Treasures. To fight teen pregnancy. To fight crime and promote community policing. To promote racial healing and build One America. To prevent youth violence. To create cleaner cars. To help our young people serve.

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.

If we really do believe that charity begins at home, we must do more to reward lower and middle income Americans who tithe and contribute to charities. Right now, only people who earn enough to itemize can claim a tax deduction for charitable contributions. Tonight, I propose new tax incentives that will allow low and middle income citizens to claim that same deduction.

That will not only help them, it will be an incentive for more Americans to give to worthy causes.

There are more than twice as many seniors today as there were in 1960. And by 2030, the senior population will grow by over 75 percent. I hope to be one of them. This is a huge army of workers and volunteers who want and deserve a chance to serve.

So, tonight, I say to seniors across America – we need you. We need your work, your wisdom and your service. Get involved if you are not and stay involved if you are.

We must do more to bring more people into the circle of citizenship and service – from supporting the efforts of faith-based organizations to increasing our investment, as we are this year, in teaching English and civics to new immigrants.

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. Two generations ago, Franklin Roosevelt used the new medium of radio for his fireside chats. Starting next month, I will use the new medium of the Internet to launch Webside Chats. These interactive discussions will give more Americans the opportunity to share their views and be a part of our national community.

America is demographically undergoing one of the great transformations in our history. Within ten years there will be no majority race in our largest state, California. In a little more than 50 years there is likely to be no majority race in America. We know what America will look like then. The question before us tonight is: What kind of America will we be? In a more interconnected world, will we make diversity our greatest strength? As we have seen in recent years, from Northern Ireland to Africa ... from Bosnia to the Middle East, racial and ethnic conflict too often spark war and terror. And no country is exempt from hatred – even our own.

We have seen a man dragged to death in Texas simply because he was black. A young man murdered in Wyoming simply because he was gay. In just the last year, we've seen the shootings and killings of African Americans, Asian Americans, and Jewish children simply because of who they were. We must draw the line. This is not the American way. In America, we not only tolerate diversity, we celebrate it. Diversity is our greatest strength – and we must protect it. We must without further delay, pass the Hate Crimes Prevention Act and the Employment Non-Discrimination Act.

The work of building One America must be the work of every American. 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. That is why 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 religious leaders to corporate leaders to lawyers to make sure every American can help build the One America of our dreams.

This fall, at the White House, one of America's leading scientists, said something we all need to remember, all human beings genetically are 99.9 percent. Science affirms what faith has always taught us: the differences between us are nothing compared to our common humanity.

My fellow Americans, each time I prepare for the state of the union, I approach 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, with a new millennium spread out before us. Behind us we see the expanse of American achievement, and ahead even wider frontiers of possibility.

So, as we take our long look ahead, we must ask ourselves: How will we make the most of this moment of promise?

Tonight, let us pledge to ourselves and to our children:

At a time of undreamed of economic growth, we will, step by step, bring prosperity in reach of every American in every community.

At a time of record surpluses, we will, step by step, make America debt free for the first time since 1835.

At a time when Americans are living longer than ever, let's make sure they live healthier than ever. Let's provide quality, affordable healthcare for everyone in America.

At a time when science and technology are transforming our world, let us realize their full promise and, at every step, harness our progress to our values.

At a time when we have proved we can grow the economy and protect the environment, let's also prove that, step by step, we can reverse climate change and make our planet a more livable place.

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

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

At a time when knowledge is the key to the new economy, let's guarantee that every child will begin school ready to learn and will graduate ready to succeed.

At a time when globalization brings both new promise and new perils, let us continue to be the world's indispensable nation.

At a time when America is growing more diverse than ever, let's finally become what we've always pledged to be – one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

We know we will not be able to do this in one year alone. Or even in the decade ahead. But we will reach these goals, the way we always have: working together, moving ahead, step by step, as One America.

When the framers were crafting our Constitution, Benjamin Franklin was often seen in Independence Hall looking at a painting of the sun low on the horizon. When, at long last, the Constitution finally was signed, Mr. Franklin, said: "I have often wondered whether that sun was rising or setting. Today I have the happiness to know it is a rising sun." Today the sun continues to shine brightly on America, as each successive generation relights the fire of freedom. Even

after 224 years, the American revolution continues -- and we remain a new nation. As long as our dreams outweigh our memories, America will be forever young. And that is our destiny.

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 ended the 20th Century, and now begin the 21st, at a high point in our history. There is no better moment to act on our hopes for our children. No better moment to dream new dreams for our nation.

We are achieving an economic revolution. 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 lowest African-American and Hispanic unemployment rate on record; the highest home ownership ever; the first back-to-back budget surpluses in 42 years – and the largest budget surplus in history.

Next month, as we mark the 107th month of this economic expansion, America will achieve the longest period of prosperity in our entire history.

Our economic revolution has been matched by a remarkable revival of the American spirit. 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, sending teen births down seven years in a row and adoptions up by 30 percent? Seven million of our fellow citizens have broken the bonds of poverty. Seven million Americans have moved from welfare to work.

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

As always, most of the credit for what we have achieved belongs to the American people. You work every day to pay your taxes, raise your families and live your dreams. Thanks to you, our nation is prepared for the new century.

My gratitude also goes to all of you 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.

In 1993 we passed an historic deficit reduction plan that helped put America on track to the longest economic expansion in our history. Tonight I want to recognize a man who played a

key role in that effort, my first Secretary of the Treasury, your former colleague and always a true American statesman, Lloyd Bentsen.

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 gridlock, and discredited government. In 1992, at a time of rising crime, mounting deficits, and high unemployment, the title of a best-selling book asked: “What went wrong?”

But in the best traditions of our nation, from 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, responsibility from all and a community of all Americans.

That’s how we turned decades of record deficits into back-to-back record surpluses – not by discarding government but by reinventing it, and moving forward with fiscal discipline. That’s how we have cut crime – not by debating prevention or 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 by pitting economic growth against environmental progress, but by pursuing both.

Opportunity and responsibility: That’s how we ended welfare as we knew it. 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 are opening the doors 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. That's how we have seized the opportunities of a global era – with 270 new agreements to expand trade and open markets for American products. And that's how we are meeting the threats to peace by standing against ethnic and religious hatred, and standing up for our interests and values around the world.

In 1992, Vice President Gore and I had a roadmap. Today we have results. But we have work to do and great goals to reach. We will get there only if we stay on the path that got us here. Building on our progress ... always moving forward ... always gaining ground.

But we must not let our renewed confidence grow into complacency. Because you can't gain ground if you're standing still. For too long this Congress has been standing still on some of our most pressing national priorities. So let's get moving.

I ask you again this year to set aside the surplus to pay down the debt. To save social security, and extend its life the next 50 years. I ask you to secure Medicare so that this generation of older Americans -- and the next -- never have to worry about medical care. And let us provide a prescription drug benefit so that no senior has to choose between medicine and food.

I ask you to pass a real patients bill of rights. Pass common-sense gun-safety legislation. Pass meaningful hate crimes legislation. And I ask you again to raise the minimum wage.

But that will only be the start of our journey. Now we must lift our sights and take what Theodore Roosevelt at the dawn of the last century called “the long look ahead.”

We live in revolutionary times. The way we communicate. The way we work. The way we learn. The way we live. The way we are and the people we are becoming. We have not only passed a point in time, we have crossed our bridge into the 21st century. We must now shape a 21st century American revolution of opportunity, responsibility, and community, equal to the challenges of our times. America is an ongoing revolution. We are, as we were in the beginning, a new nation.

The first American revolution was not won with a single shot. The continent was not settled in a single day. The challenge of expanding freedom has not been accomplished with one march – but requires constant commitment and sacrifice. And always with our eyes on the prize. The dreams that drive us on are always bold. But the lesson of our history and the lesson of the last seven years is that we make great strides step by step.

OPPORTUNITY AND RESPONSIBILITY IN EDUCATION

Our first steps into the 21st Century must be the right steps. We need first and foremost a 21st century revolution in education, guided by our faith that all our children can learn and that all our people can succeed.

For seven years we have pursued a fundamental strategy on education: Invest more, yet 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 Congress has supported our effort to hire 100,000 new, qualified teachers, to lower class sizes in the early grades, for two years in a row. This year, I call on Congress to make it three in a row.

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-ferd] Elementary in South Carolina. Classified five years ago as one of the state's worst-performing schools, Beaufort embraced accountability and higher academic standards, and started afterschool and summer school programs to help students to meet those standards. 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. The principal of Beaufort, Ruth Summerlin, is with us here tonight. Thank you for proving what all 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 many states and districts have managed to turn around their worst-performing schools—or shut them down and allow parents to choose other public schools for their children. Last fall, Congress passed my plan to give districts more resources to do the same. This year, let's double that investment. And let's give bonuses to states that succeed in making scores go up across the board.

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.

We know that children who learn early learn best. And since 1993, we've put over 160,000 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. If we do this, we can build the foundation for universal pre-school for every four-year-old in America.

We know that if we want our children to learn, we need good teachers. Tonight, I propose a \$1 billion initiative to bring the best and the brightest into teaching, to reward good teachers, and to ensure that bad ones leave the classroom, swiftly and fairly.

We know that a third of all schools in America are in serious disrepair – with leaky roofs and antiquated electrical wiring. Tonight, I propose a new, \$1.3 billion to help 5,000 schools make immediate, urgent repairs. 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.

When I became President, there was just one independent public charter school in all America. Today there are 1700. My budget assures that we will meet our goal of funding 3000, so that when parents choose a public school they have real choice.

We know that to make the American Dream more achievable, we must make college more affordable. For seven years, we have taken actions, on a bipartisan basis, to reach that goal: more Pell grants, more-affordable student loans, education IRAs, and our HOPE

scholarship tax cut. Our efforts are clearly paying off. Today, 67 percent of students who graduate high school go on to college, up almost 10 percent since 1993. Yet still, millions of middle class families are feeling the strain of paying college tuition. They need help.

In an economy that increasingly runs on brain power, we should give tax relief to people who are investing in education. My budget provides a landmark \$30-billion college opportunity tax cut, to help millions of middle-class families pay for college. It will give families a tax deduction for up to \$10,000 in tuition costs--providing as much as \$2,800 in much needed tax relief. With this new college opportunity tax cut, plus Hope Scholarships and other aid, we can say that every American who wants to go to college can go.

We must also say to middle school students from disadvantaged backgrounds, who may think college is unaffordable, or not for them, that it is for them. My budget doubles to 1.4 million the number of at-risk middle school students who receive mentoring by college students. It offers disadvantaged students the same test prep courses wealthier students use to boost their scores on college entrance exams. And it provides grants to colleges to help disadvantaged students succeed once they're in college.

If you have any doubt that by reaching across party lines, we can lift the lives of children, consider this: the thirty percent increase in the number of children adopted out of foster care. The first real increase in thirty years. And it happened because a bipartisan majority worked with us to make it happen. And 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 has led in this effort, someone who has worked tirelessly for children as long as I have known her: Hillary Rodham Clinton.

REWARDING WORK AND STRENGTHENING FAMILIES

We need a 21st Century revolution to reward work and strengthen families. That has been the basic goal of so much of what we have done – from reforming welfare to raising the minimum wage. When you work hard and play by the rules, you should be rewarded. From your standard of living to your self-respect.

One of the most powerful incentives to work has been the Earned Income Tax Credit, a targeted tax cut for 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 greatly expand the EITC, and we did. As a result, in 1998 alone the EITC helped more than 4.3 million Americans work their way into the middle class – double the number in 1993.

Tonight, I propose another major expansion of the EITC. We should reduce the marriage penalty for the EITC, making sure that it rewards marriage, and family, just as it rewards work; and we should 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. They’re working hard to reach the middle class. And we should help them.

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 funds for 110,000 more working families to live closer to the workplace. This year, lets more than double that number. If we want people to go to work, they have to be able to get to work.

We must never forget the Americans who have no home but the shelters or the streets. At a time of prosperity, we must dedicate ourselves to ending homelessness and ensuring that all Americans – every veteran, every person with a mental illness, every family – have a place to call home. I want to thank someone who has made that her personal mission. Who is working day after day directly with homeless people Tipper Gore.

Working parents need quality, affordable child care. Many spend up to a quarter of their income on child care. Last year, we helped parents provide care for about 1.75 million children. But that's only one tenth of those eligible under federal law. My child care initiative, along with the funds secured in welfare reform, would make child care better, safer, and more affordable for another 650,000 children.

To help millions of parents with moderate incomes, we should expand the child care tax credit. And let's take the next big step. Let's make the tax credit refundable for low-income families. For those making \$TK a year – too little to earn a refund today – that means \$TK more for child-care costs. Let's get this done. Parents should be able to balance work and family – not have to choose between them.

From my first days as President, we have worked to give families better access to better health care. In 1993, many workers lost their coverage when they changed or lost their jobs; many lost their jobs when they took time off to care for a sick loved one. And when employers failed to provide it, many working families had nowhere to turn to provide health care for their children.

Working together, we have changed that: by providing family and medical leave; by protecting coverage between jobs; and by passing a Children's Health Insurance Program. In less than a year, enrollment in CHIP has doubled, to 2 million children. Our goal is to cover up to 5 million; so we're well on our way. The more children we cover, the more can begin healthy lives: the childhood immunization rate is now 90 percent, an all-time high.

But there are too many – far too many – uninsured children. To enroll more of them, we should go where they're found – schools, churches, child-care centers – and do it there. And let's take an even bigger step. In four out of five cases, uninsured kids have uninsured parents. So let's do what Vice President Gore suggests and enroll the parents, too. I propose new legislation to make these parents eligible for the programs that cover their kids.

And let's give a real, affordable option to the fastest growing group of uninsured: people between 55 and 65 who lose their coverage. Last year, I proposed that we let them buy into Medicare. This year, I propose we also give them a tax credit, to make this option more affordable.

We must also do more to care for the caregivers – the record numbers of American families providing for aging or ailing loved ones at home. More and more this is a common choice, but rarely an easy – or inexpensive – one. Last year, I proposed a \$1,000 tax credit for long-term care. This year, let's triple that – to \$3,000. That would cover up to 60 percent of a family's long-term care costs. Let's recognize and reward the sacrifice they're making.

If we really want to reward work and family, let's make sure that men and women get equal pay for equal work. Working women have made significant strides: more single mothers are working than ever, and the women's unemployment rate is the lowest in almost 50 years. But women earn less than 77 cents for every dollar men earn. That's just not good enough. We should pass the Paycheck Fairness Act. My budget also provides much needed resources to enforce present equal pay laws, and to train more women for high-paying, high-tech jobs.

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

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

We have already begun 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.

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.

And to absent parents who owe child support, we should pass legislation that says: we'll help you do right by your children, but from now on, you have to go to work, and pay them what you owe.

RESPONSIBILITY AND CRIME

Crime in America has dropped every year for the past seven years -- the longest continuous decline 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 do more to keep guns out of the hands of criminals and juveniles. Last year, Congress considered common-sense gun safety legislation to require Brady background checks at gun shows, child safety locks for all new handguns, and a ban on the importation of large-capacity ammunition clips. In the face of enormous pressure from the gun lobby, the Senate, acting with courage and responsibility, and with a tie-breaking vote by the Vice President, passed the legislation. This year, I hope the House will finally follow suit. The lives of our children depend on it.

Last year, in Littleton, Colorado, we all saw what can happen when guns are allowed to fall into the wrong hands. One of the students killed at Columbine High School was Daniel Mauser, age 15. Daniel was an amazing kid, a straight-A student, a good skier. It is hard, maybe impossible, to comprehend the grief his father Tom must feel. But Tom has translated that grief into action. Earlier this month, he took a leave of absence from his job to advocate for tougher gun safety laws. His presence here is an inspiration. Passing 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 require licenses for handgun 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 must do more. I propose to 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. I thank those gun manufacturers who have worked on this. And I invite all manufacturers to help us keep guns out of the wrong hands.

Every parent I know worries about violence in the media. 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 programs and video and Internet games. This year, I ask the industry to go farther. Let's do as the First Lady has suggested, and give parents what they need: a single, voluntary rating system for all their children's entertainment -- a system that is easy to understand and enforce.

Every year, hundreds of thousands of offenders leave our prisons and jails, only to wind up back in trouble with the law. More often than not, drugs are a major part of the problem. Two-thirds of ex-offenders who are sent back to prison are drug abusers. But if they get drug treatment, they are up to 70 percent less likely to commit another crime. We must provide them

with that treatment, along with regular drug testing and a simple bargain: stay clean and you stay free; do drugs and you do more time. I also propose a new initiative to train, counsel, and more carefully monitor ex-offenders so that they can become responsible citizens, family members, and employees.

OPENING NEW MARKETS

For our economy to continue enjoying rapid growth without inflation, we need a 21st Century revolution to open new markets. It is vital that businesses find new opportunities and new workers. I believe they 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 potential in America’s new markets.

Now, more than ever, we can expand the circle of opportunity 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?

Businesses should have the same incentives to invest in America’s new markets as they have to invest in foreign markets. In this year’s budget, I call on Congress to double our New Markets Tax Credit, to spur \$15 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. I thank you for your commitment and I pledge to work with you.

Last summer, I became the first President to visit an Indian reservation since Franklin Roosevelt. That's far too long. My budget increases our investment in health care, education, law enforcement, and infrastructure by more than \$1 billion. In this new century, we should honor our historic responsibility to the first Americans -- Native Americans.

We must also fulfill our obligation to our farming communities, the lifeblood of our land. When I signed the farm bill in 1996, I feared it would work well in good times but not in bad -- especially for family farmers. In recent years, they have endured droughts, floods and historically low prices due to financial crises abroad. We simply must change the Farm Bill and strengthen the Farm Safety Net.

This spring, I will lead a New Markets tour to focus on the "digital divide" -- between those with access to the new economy and those without it. The technology that drives our expansion also creates tools to ensure that everyone, from the city to the farm to the reservation, can share in our prosperity. My budget creates technology centers in 1,000 neighborhoods

across our land – connecting poor communities to the economic mainstream. It also mobilizes the combined force of public, private, and nonprofit sectors to increase Internet access in low-income areas. Every American must have the tools to succeed.

GLOBAL CHANGE AND AMERICAN LEADERSHIP

It is not enough to master the possibilities of the new economy at home. We must also lead in the revolution that is reshaping the global economy – and indeed the entire globe.

At the dawn of this new century, the economic and military might of America are unrivaled. These are the measures of American power, as they have long been. But the central reality of our time is globalization – a process tearing down barriers between nations, peoples, economies, and cultures so that what happens anywhere is felt everywhere. The change can be liberating and threatening. But the bottom line is clear: The world is coming together around ideals Americans have long proclaimed, fought for and tried to live. And it is our open, creative society that stands to benefit more than any other.

Globalization is irreversible. The way to advance our interests is to stand at the center of every vital global network. America will remain a strong leader by being a good partner – to old allies and to new ones, and to nations that need a helping hand. And we will remain true to what makes us Americans by standing strong for our values.

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 growing 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. What we seek is a global economy based on the rule of law.

That is why China should join the WTO and live under the same trade rules America does. For America's companies and workers, this will open 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.

When we engage in the global economy, we are investing in our shared future. Growth from trade is vital not just 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 to reduce the debts that cripple the world's poorest nations. I ask Congress to support that effort, and to finalize our plans to open new trade opportunities with Africa and the Caribbean Basin. If we do so, we will help Americans master the new economy . . . and help others to become masters of their own future.

Still, our modern world is bedeviled by our most ancient failing – fear of those who are different from us. In too many places, that fear is exploited by unscrupulous leaders clinging to

power or waging war on their neighbors. History teaches that big wars start small. And when human beings anywhere are singled out for destruction, it is our common humanity that suffers.

America cannot prevent every conflict or stop every outrage. But where our interests are at stake and we can make a difference, we must be peacemakers. We should be proud of America's role in bringing the Middle East closer than ever to comprehensive peace. [Update; essential that America does its share.] We should be proud of our role in building peace from Northern Ireland, to East Timor, to Africa . . . in promoting reconciliation between Greece and Turkey . . . and in defending human rights and religious freedom.

And we should be proud of the men and women of our armed forces who stopped the ethnic cleansing in Kosovo, and made it possible for a million innocent people to return to their homes. Today, 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, each in his own way, has given his best – and America's best – to the cause of peace. In Kosovo, when Slobodan Milosevic unloosed his terror, Captain John Cherrey was one of the brave airmen who turned the tide – flying straight into the teeth of Serbian air defenses to bring home the pilot of a downed American plane. And in Northern Ireland, when the peace process stalled, I asked the man who had done so much to start it to go back again to save it. And now, thanks to George Mitchell, the people of Northern Ireland finally have a working government representing all parties. Captain Cherrey, Senator Mitchell, you have our gratitude, and our promise to finish the work you helped begin.

A central challenge of this new century is whether our former adversaries, Russia and China, emerge as stable, prosperous, democratic partners of the United States.

Today, Russia is weakened by the legacy of communism, by economic crisis, by a cruel and futile war in Chechnya. But so much else has changed: 5,000 Soviet nuclear weapons dismantled; Russian troops serving by our side, keeping peace in the Balkans. Russia's long journey to democracy may be difficult, it may not be complete; but it is profoundly important to America and the world. A generation from now, let it be said we did our part.

In China, we must promote our interests with firmness, but not in fear. China cannot buy stability and stature at the expense of freedom. But let us not isolate China from the global forces of change. We want to see China on the inside, playing by the rules, not on the outside denying them.

We face another challenge: whether terrorists and hostile nations will acquire new means to undermine our defenses. The same advances that have shrunk cell phones to fit in the palms of our hands can also make weapons of terror – chemical, biological, nuclear – easier to conceal and easier to use.

We must meet this threat. By working with Russia to keep deadly weapons and materials secure and continuing to reduce our nuclear arsenals; by restraining nuclear and missile programs in North Korea and Iran; by preventing Iraq from threatening its neighbors; and by

strengthening global standards against proliferation. I am committed to working with the Senate – on a bipartisan basis – to build a consensus for the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty.

America is increasing its preparedness for potential biological attack, and developing a system to defend ourselves against the missiles of outlaw nations – while working to preserve our Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty with Russia. My budget devotes \$2 billion to protect our vital computer systems from hackers and criminals in any corner of any country.

To have a more stable world, we must narrow the gap between rich and poor. We cannot accept a world in which a part of humanity lives on the cutting edge of the new economy while another lives on the bare edge of survival. Expanded trade is part of the answer. But the real answer is freedom.

From Nigeria to Indonesia, more people won the right to choose their leaders in 1999 than in 1989, the year the Berlin Wall fell. Yet new democracies need help in delivering for their people. We must stand by countries like Colombia, fighting for its own people's lives – and for our children's lives – against the poison of drug trafficking. I have proposed a two-year, \$1.6 billion package to help Colombia; and I count on your support. And if we want to put the drug lords out of business, let's go after what they value most: their money. This year, I will propose legislation to crack down harder on money laundering, here and around the world.

America must help more nations to break the bonds of disease that hold down their people. Last year in Africa, AIDS killed ten times as many people as war did. My budget

invests \$150 million in the global fight against this and other infectious killers. And I will ask the world to join us in a new initiative to speed the delivery and development of vaccines. 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, together, lift millions of lives.

All this comes down to a single central challenge, the most important one of all, will America continue to lead. In the 20th Century, America was thrust into global leadership by the forces of history. Now, America must choose: to direct the new forces of history or be driven by them.

The choice is clear. America must not grow complacent; we cannot presume that the fight for freedom is fully won. No peace can endure unless it is backed by the leadership of great nations. So America must lead boldly and consistently and without reservation. Because freedom is always in America's interest.

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 one percent of our budget that supports our international engagement and keeps our soldiers out of war. Last year, Congress worked with me to maintain that commitment and to resume paying our UN dues and arrears. Let's do it

again this year. And let's remember that building a stronger global community will only strengthen our own community here at home.

RESPONSIBILITY, OPPORTUNITY, AND THE ENVIRONMENT

We have no higher obligation to our children, and their children, than to be wise stewards of our air, water, and land. I am grateful for the many opportunities the Vice President and I have had to honor this commitment – and to finally put to rest the notion that you can't expand your economy and protect the environment at the same time. For as our economy has grown, we have rid countless neighborhoods of toxic waste; ensured cleaner drinking water for millions of families; and taken unprecedented action to improve the air we breathe.

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 are protecting for all Americans, for all time. Not since the days of Theodore Roosevelt has the nation come together to save so much precious land.

But our communities 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 our wildlands, protect our coastlines, and restore our wildlife. This endowment would provide nearly \$1.5 billion each year – by far the largest, most enduring investment in land preservation ever proposed.

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As we work to protect our land, we must help other nations that are struggling to protect theirs. The rainforests are the lungs of our planet – yet they are disappearing at the rate of more than 50 acres a minute. Tonight, I propose a new plan to help countries from the Amazon to the Congo Basin strengthen their economies by preserving, rather than destroying, 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 reduce emissions of greenhouse gases now, the seas will rise and natural disasters will become more frequent with each passing year.

There is no question that we can reduce greenhouse gas pollution. Thanks to remarkable new technologies, I am absolutely convinced that we can do it in ways that will produce more widespread, more sustainable economic growth.

In California, the Departments of Energy and Housing and Urban Development helped build a moderate-income housing community with windows that keep out four or five times as

much heat and cold as ordinary windows do. With these and other readily-available technologies, we thought we'd be able to save homeowners 40% off their energy bills. It turns out, they're saving 65%.

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To spur these new technologies, I propose giving our families a tax credit worth up to \$3,000 a car when new super-efficient vehicles hit the showroom floor. But let me be clear: We have the technology to make all new cars more fuel efficient right now. I want to thank the automakers who have joined our Partnership for New Generation Vehicles and I ask more of them to join with us to design a new strategy for reversing the recent decline in average fuel economy. You've committed to higher efficiency in Europe. Let's do the same right here at home.

We must also meet this worldwide challenge by giving developing countries the tools to grow in ways that strengthen their economies and protect the environment. So tonight, I propose a new [\$100 million] initiative to help these countries adopt the newest clean-energy technologies. It is simply no longer true that to prosper you have to pollute the air and endanger

the Earth. Nations that long for the level of prosperity we take for granted need not follow the old patterns of growth that brought us global warming.

THE OPPORTUNITY AND RESPONSIBILITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Innovations in science and technology are key not only to enhancing the environment. Sustained investments in scientific research will also yield dramatic, almost miraculous, advances in the quality of our lives.

In the last century alone, the life expectancy for the average American has increased from 47 to 77 – thanks to discoveries such as penicillin and the development of vaccines for many childhood diseases. Today, we are on the cusp of far greater advances that will not only help us live far longer but far better. Later this year, researchers will finish the first complete sequence of the human genome – the very blueprint of life. Since so many diseases have a genetic component, the completion of this project will lead to a revolution in our ability to detect, treat, and prevent diseases from Alzheimer's to cancer to AIDS.

Consider the implications: if we delay the onset of Alzheimer's by just five years, we could empty half the nursing home beds in America. If we delay the onset of adult diabetes, we could save \$30 billion in health care costs.

Thanks to the Human Genome Project, scientists have recently identified three of the genes that cause Parkinson's Disease – and they are already working to create precision proteins

that will turn off these faulty genes for good. Not if but when they succeed, millions and men and women will be cured of this dread disease – even those whose symptoms have not even begun to emerge.

[insert acknowledgment and introduction of Michael J. Fox]

Advances in science and technology will surely produce quantum leaps in many other fields as well. In the future we will have new materials ten times as strong as steel but ten times lighter ... computers that can translate spoken English into foreign languages and vice versa as fast as you can speak ... devices the size of sugar cubes that can store all the information contained the Library of Congress.

These and other innovations 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 the rise of the Internet and other information technologies. And the high-tech jobs this industry creates are high-wage jobs – paying nearly 80 percent more than the private-sector average.

For all these reasons, my budget will include a \$3 billion increase in the 21st Century Research Fund. We will increase support for biomedical research, information technology, clean energy, and university-based research. We will also help propel NASA's never-ending quest in space. NASA's missions to Mars and into the heavens beyond are just as important to humankind today as the brave sea voyages of the explorers hundreds of years ago. As President

Kennedy once said, “We choose to do these things not because they are easy but because they are hard.”

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.

If we do all these things, we can ensure that the march of human discovery will only quicken in the century before us – enhancing life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness in ways that we can only begin to imagine today.

COMMUNITY

At a time of unprecedented prosperity, we have a unique opportunity and responsibility to reach out beyond ourselves to help those who are less fortunate and to build stronger communities. The most important work of America occurs outside the realm of government – in our houses of worship, in our clubs and charities and volunteer groups. Service is not only the way we tackle some of our most pressing problems – from drug abuse and homelessness, to health care and crime -- it is one of the best ways to come face to face with our common humanity. Our differences suddenly become less important when you are working side by side with your neighbors to rebuild a church, battle a flood or feed the hungry.

So, our long look ahead must include ways to widen the circle of citizen service until it embraces every American. We are already in the midst of a new service movement in America. And one of the things I am most proud of is our efforts to support that movement through greater partnerships with private citizens. This is a new model for government that energizes private resources for noble public ends. Four years ago, I asked corporate leaders to join with us in a partnership to provide jobs to those leaving welfare. Today, 12,000 companies have hired nearly 650,000 former welfare recipients. Over the past seven years we have created many other successful partnerships. To fight drug abuse and AIDS. To teach our young people to read. To

Save America's Treasures. To fight teen pregnancy. To fight crime and promote community policing. To promote racial healing and build One America. To prevent youth violence. To create cleaner cars. To help our young people serve.

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.

If we really do believe that charity begins at home, we must do more to reward lower and middle income Americans who tithe and contribute to charities. Right now, only people who earn enough to itemize can claim a tax deduction for charitable contributions. Tonight, I propose new tax incentives that will allow low and middle income citizens to claim that same deduction.

That will not only help them, it will be an incentive for more Americans to give to worthy causes.

There are more than twice as many seniors today as there were in 1960. And by 2030, the senior population will grow by over 75 percent. I hope to be one of them. This is a huge army of workers and volunteers who want and deserve a chance to serve.

So, tonight, I say to seniors across America – we need you. We need your work, your wisdom and your service. Get involved if you are not and stay involved if you are.

We must do more to bring more people into the circle of citizenship and service – from supporting the efforts of faith-based organizations to increasing our investment, as we are this year, in teaching English and civics to new immigrants.

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. Two generations ago, Franklin Roosevelt used the new medium of radio for his fireside chats. Starting next month, I will use the new medium of the Internet to launch Webside Chats. These interactive discussions will give more Americans the opportunity to share their views and be a part of our national community.

America is demographically undergoing one of the great transformations in our history. Within ten years there will be no majority race in our largest state, California. In a little more than 50 years there is likely to be no majority race in America. We know what America will look like then. The question before us tonight is: What kind of America will we be? In a more interconnected world, will we make diversity our greatest strength? As we have seen in recent years, from Northern Ireland to Africa ... from Bosnia to the Middle East, racial and ethnic conflict too often spark war and terror. And no country is exempt from hatred – even our own.

We have seen a man dragged to death in Texas simply because he was black. A young man murdered in Wyoming simply because he was gay. In just the last year, we've seen the shootings and killings of African Americans, Asian Americans, and Jewish children simply because of who they were. We must draw the line. This is not the American way. In America, we not only tolerate diversity, we celebrate it. Diversity is our greatest strength – and we must protect it. We must without further delay, pass the Hate Crimes Prevention Act and the Employment Non-Discrimination Act.

The work of building One America must be the work of every American. 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. That is why 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 religious leaders to corporate leaders to lawyers to make sure every American can help build the One America of our dreams.

This fall, at the White House, one of America's leading scientists, said something we all need to remember, all human beings genetically are 99.9 percent. Science affirms what faith has always taught us: the differences between us are nothing compared to our common humanity.

My fellow Americans, each time I prepare for the state of the union, I approach 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, with a new millennium spread out before us. Behind us we see the expanse of American achievement, and ahead even wider frontiers of possibility.

So, as we take our long look ahead, we must ask ourselves: How will we make the most of this moment of promise?

Tonight, let us pledge to ourselves and to our children:

At a time of undreamed of economic growth, we will, step by step, bring prosperity in reach of every American in every community.

At a time of record surpluses, we will, step by step, make America debt free for the first time since 1835.

At a time when Americans are living longer than ever, let's make sure they live healthier than ever. Let's provide quality, affordable healthcare for everyone in America.

At a time when science and technology are transforming our world, let us realize their full promise and, at every step, harness our progress to our values.

At a time when we have proved we can grow the economy and protect the environment, let's also prove that, step by step, we can reverse climate change and make our planet a more livable place.

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

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

At a time when knowledge is the key to the new economy, let's guarantee that every child will begin school ready to learn and will graduate ready to succeed.

At a time when globalization brings both new promise and new perils, let us continue to be the world's indispensable nation.

At a time when America is growing more diverse than ever, let's finally become what we've always pledged to be – one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

We know we will not be able to do this in one year alone. Or even in the decade ahead. But we will reach these goals, the way we always have: working together, moving ahead, step by step, as One America.

When the framers were crafting our Constitution, Benjamin Franklin was often seen in Independence Hall looking at a painting of the sun low on the horizon. When, at long last, the Constitution finally was signed, Mr. Franklin, said: "I have often wondered whether that sun was rising or setting. Today I have the happiness to know it is a rising sun." Today the sun continues to shine brightly on America, as each successive generation relights the fire of freedom. Even

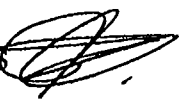
after 224 years, the American revolution continues -- and we remain a new nation. As long as our dreams outweigh our memories, America will be forever young. And that is our destiny.

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

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

January 22, 2000

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: J. TERRY EDMONDS 

CC: JOHN PODESTA
MARIA ECHAVESTE

SUBJECT: REVISED STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS

Please find attached a revised draft of your 2000 State of the Union Address. We have revised it based on your direction in our meeting on Thursday.

Please note that after discussions with Paul Begala and Bruce Reed, we moved the ten big challenges section to the end of the speech, where we think it works much better. It allows you to move more swiftly into the unfinished business and your policy agenda at the top, and provides greater lift to the conclusion.

As you directed, we have added more set-up and substance to the higher education and healthcare sections.

We obviously have cuts to make, which we will begin to address during our working group session tomorrow with Bob Shrum, Mark Penn, Don Baer, Sid Blumenthal, and others.

We look forward to hearing your further thoughts. Thank you.



Lowell A. Weiss
01/21/2000 09:26:55

Record Type: Record

To: Joshua S. Gottheimer/WHO/EOP@EOP, Terry Edmonds/WHO/EOP@EOP

CC:

Subject: enviro and science & technology

RESPONSIBILITY, OPPORTUNITY, AND THE ENVIRONMENT

We have no higher obligation to our children, and their children, than to be wise stewards of our air, water, and land. I am grateful for the many opportunities the Vice President and I have had to honor this commitment – and to finally put to rest the notion that you can't expand your economy and protect the environment at the same time. 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.

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 are protecting for all Americans, for all time. Not since the days of Theodore Roosevelt has the nation come together to save so much land in the continental United States.

But our communities 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 our wildlands, protect our coastlines, and restore our wildlife. This endowment would provide nearly \$1.5 billion each year – by far the largest, most enduring investment in land preservation ever proposed.

Last year, the Vice President launched a major new effort to help make communities more livable – so children will grow up next to parks rather than parking lots, and parents don't sit in endless traffic when they could be home with their kids. Tonight, we propose to strengthen this initiative with new funding to help communities build advanced transit systems and save farms, parks, and other precious open spaces.

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There is no question that we can reduce greenhouse gas pollution. Thanks to remarkable new technologies, I am absolutely convinced that we can do it in ways that will produce more widespread, more sustainable economic growth.

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To spur these new technologies, I propose giving our families a tax credit worth up to \$3,000 a car when new super-efficient vehicles hit the showroom floor. But let me be clear: We have the technology to make all new cars more fuel efficient right now. So tonight, I call on auto industry leaders to join me at the White House to design a new strategy for reversing the recent decline in average fuel economy. You've committed to higher efficiency in Europe. Let's do the same right here at home.

We must also meet this worldwide challenge by giving developing countries the tools to grow in ways that strengthen their economies and protect the environment. So tonight, I propose a new [\$100 million] initiative to help these countries adopt the newest clean-energy technologies. It is simply no longer true that to prosper you have to pollute the air and endanger the Earth. Nations that long for the level of prosperity that we take for granted need not follow the old patterns of growth that brought us global warming. For the sake of our children, we must help them create a better, more modern path.

THE OPPORTUNITY AND RESPONSIBILITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Innovations in science and technology are key not only to enhancing the environment. Sustained investments in scientific research will also yield dramatic, almost miraculous, advances in the quality of our lives.

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from 47 to 77 – thanks to discoveries such as penicillin and the development of vaccines for many childhood diseases. Today, we are on the cusp of far greater advances that will not only help us live far longer but far better. Later this year, researchers will finish the first complete sequence of the human genome – the very blueprint of life. Since so many diseases have a genetic component, the completion of this project will lead to a revolution in our ability to detect, treat, and prevent diseases from Alzheimer's to cancer to AIDS.

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For all these reasons, my budget will include a \$3 billion increase in the 21st Century Research Fund. We will increase support for biomedical research, information technology, clean energy, and university-based research. We will also help propel NASA's never-ending quest in space. NASA's missions to Mars and into the heavens beyond are just as important to humankind today as the brave sea voyages of the explorers hundreds of years ago. As President Kennedy once said, "We choose to do these things not because they are easy but because they are hard."

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.

If we do all these things, we can ensure that the march of human discovery will only quicken in the century before us -- enhancing life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness in ways that we can only begin to imagine today.



Jeffrey A. Shesol

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Record Type: Record

To: Terry Edmonds/WHO/EOP@EOP, Joshua S. Gottheimer/WHO/EOP@EOP

cc:

Subject: my progress

REWARDING WORK AND STRENGTHENING FAMILIES

It is often said that the foundation of American life is the family. The basic goal of so much of what we have done – from reforming welfare to raising the minimum wage – has been to encourage work and to reward working families; to give more opportunities for a better life to all responsible enough to work for it.

When you work hard and play by the rules, good things should happen. From your standard of living to your self-esteem.

One of the most powerful incentives to work has been the Earned Income Tax Credit, a targeted tax cut for 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 greatly expand the EITC, and we did. As a result, in 1998 alone the EITC helped more than 4.3 million Americans work their way into the middle class – double the number in 1993.

Tonight, I again propose that Congress expand the EITC – substantially. We should reduce the marriage penalty for the EITC, making sure that it rewards marriage, and family, just as it rewards work; and we should 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 typical family to pay three months’ mortgage or eight months of health care coverage. And it’s an added incentive to work 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: the workplace. 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 – rent subsidies to help working families live closer to the workplace. 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.

We must never forget the Americans who have no home but the shelters or the streets. At a time of prosperity, we must dedicate ourselves to ending homelessness and ensuring that every American – every veteran, every person with a mental illness, every family – has a place

to call home. I want to thank someone who has made that her personal mission. Tipper Gore.

Working parents need quality, affordable child care. Many spend up to a quarter of their income on child care. Last year, we helped parents provide care for about 1.75 million children. But that's only one tenth of those eligible under federal law. My child care initiative, along with the funds secured in welfare reform, would make child care better, safer, and more affordable for another 650,000 children.

To help millions of parents with moderate incomes, we should expand the child care tax credit. And let's take the next big step. Let's make the tax credit refundable for low-income families. For those making \$TK,000 a year – too little to earn a refund today – that means \$TK00 more for child-care costs. Let's get this done. Parents should be able to balance work and family – not have to choose between them.

From my first days as President, we have worked to give families better access to better health care. In 1993, many workers lost their coverage when they changed or lost their jobs; many lost their jobs when they took time off to care for a sick loved one. And when employers failed to provide it, many working families had nowhere to turn to provide health care for their children.

Working together, we have changed that: by providing family and medical leave; by protecting coverage between jobs; and by passing a Children's Health Insurance Program. In less than a year, enrollment in CHIP has doubled, to 2 million children. Our goal is to cover up to 5 million; so we're well on our way. The more children we cover, the more can begin healthy lives: the childhood immunization rate is now 90 percent, an all-time high.

But there are too many – far too many – uninsured children. To enroll more of them, we should go where they're found – schools, churches, child-care centers – and do it there. And let's take an even bigger step. In four out of five cases, uninsured kids have uninsured parents. So let's do what the Vice President suggests and enroll their parents, too. I propose new legislation to make parents eligible for the programs that cover their kids.

And let's give a real, affordable option to the fastest growing group of uninsured: people between 55 and 65 who lose their coverage. Last year, I proposed that we let them buy into Medicare. This year, I propose we also give them a tax credit, to make this option more affordable.

My fellow Americans, this is the [eighth] 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 frontiers of possibility.

So, as we take that long look ahead, we must 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 of record surpluses, let's keep going until America is debt free for the first time since 1835.

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 science and technology are transforming our world, let us realize their full promise and make sure our values guide our progress.

At a time when we have proved we can grow the economy and clean the environment, let's prove we can reverse the tide of climate change and leave our planet a safer place.

At a time when Americans are living longer than ever, let's keep going and provide quality, affordable healthcare for everyone in America.

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.

At a time when the world is becoming more interdependent, let's continue to be the world's leader for peace, freedom and prosperity.

These are big goals, worthy of a great nation. We will not reach them all this year, but we will reach them. And as long as our dreams outweigh our memories, we can be forever young and that is the destiny of America.

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.