

From Phil
4:20pm
8/28/96

August 28, 1996

CLOSE HOLD

MEMORANDUM FOR LEON PANETTA
 HAROLD ICKES
 GEORGE STEPHANOPOULOS

FROM: MICHAEL WALDMAN

SUBJECT: ATTACHED REDRAFT OF
 CONVENTION SPEECH

Attached is another redraft of the convention speech. The opening section is unchanged from the last draft you saw; the policy section (page six to the end) has been redrafted and restructured.

This does not reflect new edits by the President. He has this draft and will be meeting with us early Wednesday morning to go over it.

8/28/96 12:45 am

**PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON
ACCEPTANCE SPEECH
DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL CONVENTION
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS
August 29, 1996**

Mr. Chairman, Mr. Vice-President, fellow Democrats, my fellow Americans:

Let me begin by saluting a man who is my strong partner and close friend, with whom I have had the privilege of working for the past four years, and with whom I expect to work for four more years -- the Vice-President of the United States of America, Al Gore.

Tonight I thank Chicago, city of the big shoulders and a great heart. And thank you, Chicago, for giving me the love of my life -- my wife, Hillary.

Four years ago, you honored me with your nomination to the highest office in the land. We set out to fulfill our vision -- to offer opportunity to all, to demand responsibility from all, and to build a new American community. That night, in New York, together we made clear that we still believed in that most American of all places, a place called Hope.

Four years ago, we had to begin our journey with hope. Our people were losing heart and our most important resource: our belief in our ability to move forward -- together. Crime seemed on an inevitable climb. Welfare seemed to be an impenetrable system of dependence. The budget deficit seemed a permanent shackle on our economic dreams. A new global economy seemed a threat to our dreams, not the gateway to a new age of possibility for all of our hardworking people.

These unsolved problems seemed to open wounds in our generous American soul. A nation built on equality found racial division on the rise. A nation built on the promise of progress found its path blocked; hardworking Americans replaced the hope of moving higher with resentment of those stuck below. And too many politicians climbed the ladder of these resentments to higher office. They used these problems as issues to be exploited, not challenges to be met. When the times demanded that we join hands, they pointed fingers.

My fellow Americans, faith begins with hope. And, bit by powerful bit, in the last four years, we have seen our hope become our confidence, and our confidence become a new faith in ourselves as a nation, a new faith in America.

Four years ago, I was determined to offer a leadership that would tell America not "who to blame," but "what to do." We have stepped up to the tough issues, the real problems that affect

our people in their daily lives. We have made progress on the straightforward vision we set forth to fulfill: To keep the American dream alive for all our people. To remain the world's strongest force for peace and freedom. And to come together as a nation around our fundamental values.

We created economic opportunity to restore the American Dream. 10 million new jobs. The lowest combined rates of inflation and unemployment and montages in 30 years. Wages rising again. And last week, I signed legislation raising the minimum wage, moving people from welfare to work, and assuring that when Americans change jobs, they can take their health insurance with them.

With the help of the Vice-President, we cut 250,000 jobs from the federal workforce; now our government is the smallest -- and the most efficient -- it has been since John F. Kennedy was President. And, today the deficit that was strangling our progress is 60% smaller than four years ago.

We began to put 100,000 more police on the streets; we toughened penalties; we stopped felons and fugitives from buying handguns; we banned assault rifles. For four years now, the crime rate has dropped. Now even the juvenile murder rate is down.

We worked with states to launch dozens of experiments to replace welfare with work. Because of this quiet revolution, 1.6 million fewer people are on welfare than on the day I took office.

We have kept America strong around the world. Tonight, no one, anywhere on this planet -- from Russia, to Bosnia, to the Middle East -- doubts that America is the strongest force for peace and freedom and prosperity in the world.

And most important, we are coming together to meet our challenges and protect our values, united, as one America. That is why I have spoken out over these months, to show how we can work to meet the challenges in our people's lives and to protect the values that have always made us strong -- community by community, school by school, block by block.

The era of big government is over. But we cannot go back to an era of fend for yourself. We need a government that is leaner and more efficient -- but one that is strong enough to help people make it, to give them the tools to make the most of their God given potential.

Tonight, we embark again on a great debate about our country's direction. The issue in this election is this: What kind of country will we build for the Year 2000? How will we go into the 21st Century? What will America look like at the dawn of the next century? What will she look like when our children and our grandchildren are our age?

So let me make clear that Bob Dole and Jack Kemp -- and Ross Perot -- are men who love our country and have served it with distinction. Let us honor their service, and our fellow

citizens, by making this a campaign of ideas, not insults. Let us clearly state the differences in our records and our vision for the future, but let us not demean each other, our parties, or our devotion to America. I say to all of you: This must be a campaign that brings us together -- and takes us into the future.

The past, even my record, even the record of our opponents, only matter as guides to the future. I love and revere the history of America as much as any other President who has ever served. I am determined to take our best traditions into the future. But with all respect, we do not need to build a bridge to the past -- we need to build a bridge to the future.

A century ago, our grandparents built a bridge between eras -- and the Progressive Era of Theodore Roosevelt and Woodrow Wilson millions of Americans cross into the industrial age and the new century. Progressive Era. We have met so many of the challenges of this century -- and our country is moving forward, confident and strong.

But there are still people who are not sharing in all the bounty of this new age of possibility. And this country will not be all it can be if we do not find a way to help everyone move confidently, forward, together. We must make sure that America is ready for the challenges and remarkable opportunities of our new century.

So tonight I will outline a new progressive agenda for reform in America -- an agenda for action that will allow us to meet our challenges, protect our values and prepare this country for the 21st Century. We must help every parent to raise their child. We must help every young person and working person get the education and training they need. We must make families feel safe again on the streets. We must finally break the cycle of poverty and dependency that grips our nation. We must protect our environment for generations to come. We must keep America the strongest nation on earth. We must do all these things, and in so doing we will improve every aspect of daily life as we move forward to the new century.

I believe, more deeply than ever before, that the way we will move forward confident and strong into this new era is by holding fast to our enduring values. Four years ago, I told you and the American people what guided me: We must offer opportunity to all ... demand responsibility from all ... and come together as a community. That in America's heart begins. It has kept us strong and brought us this far. And it is how we will move forward, confident and vital, into the new century.

Then, when our time here is over, we will be able to watch the sun go down, and say, truly, we have prepared our children for the dawn.

OPPORTUNITY

I want America to build a bridge to the Year 2000 in which we expand opportunity

where highly trained teachers demand peak performance from our children, where every 8-year-old can point to a book and say: "I read it myself."

And above all, over the past half century, the most important thing we have done to extend opportunity is to make real the dream of college for more and more Americans. In the remaining years of this century, the single most important thing we can do is to make college available to every single American who wants it.

We must make at least two years of college as universal as a high school education is today. And we should use targeted tax cuts to do it.

I propose giving every person in America a \$1500-a-year tuition tax credit -- a "Hope Scholarship" for the first two years of college, which will make the typical community college free. Every family ought to be able to deduct the cost of college tuition up to \$10,000 per year. Every parent ought to be able to save money for college every year in a tax free IRA. Middle income Americans should not have to pay a nickel of taxes on the money they spend for college.

The tax cuts in my plan are fully paid for, with specific budget cuts and loophole closings. No tax cuts will do more than to expand opportunity and help the economy to grow than tax cuts for education.

In the new economy, education can't stop on graduation day. That is why I have proposed a new GI Bill for America's workers -- a \$2600 grant for all workers who need one, to get training, skills, all the tools they need to make the most of their own lives.

We must demand excellence at every level -- to insist that students learn the old basics we learned, and the new basics they need.

Tonight, let us set a clear national goal: every child should be able to read on their own by the 3rd grade. When 40% of 8 year olds cannot read as well as they should, we must do better. I want to send 30,000 reading specialists to mobilize a volunteer army of 1 million tutors -- and they, together, will teach our children to read. Let me say to parents: every single tired night you spend reading a book to your child is a night well worth it. I know it was for Hillary and me when it came to Chelsea. Literacy is freedom -- we must set our children free.

We must insist that our students take tough tests as they move from level to level; reward good teachers and remove those who don't measure up; give parents the choice of which public school to send their children; keep schools open late so young people can stay off the street.

We need schools that will take our children into the new century -- rebuilt and modernized, with an unprecedented commitment from the national government to increase school construction . . . and with every single library and classroom in America connected to the information superhighway by the Year 2000.

If we do these things, every 8 year old will be able to read . . . every 12 year old will be able to log on to the internet . . . every 18 year old will be able to go to college . . . and America will have the knowledge they need to cross the bridge to the future.

Economy/budget

I want to build a bridge to the Year 2000 in which we preserve the legacy of opportunity of this generation for the next, by balancing our budget in a way that protects our values, and ensures that every family will be able to hold onto the value of their single most important asset -- their home.

Tonight, let us proclaim to the American people: We will balance the budget. And let us also proclaim: we will do it in a way that preserves Medicare, Medicaid, education and the environment.

Last year, the Republican Congress sent me a plan that violated our values. I vetoed their budget last year; I was proud to do it; and if I have to, I will do it again.

Let me be clear: As long as I am President, I will never allow cuts that devastate education for our children, pollute our environment, gut health care under Medicaid, or violate our duty to our parents under Medicare. Never.

And as long as I am President, I will never allow Congress to use the blackmail threat of a government shutdown to try and break the will of the American people into supporting deep cuts in Medicare, Medicaid, education or the environment.

Our opponents in the other party have always complained that government is too big. But we, the Democrats, reduced the government to its smallest size since John Kennedy was President. The federal employees we now have are more productive than ever . . . and these public servants do not deserve a government shutdown.

I have proposed a plan to balance the budget through real, certified cuts in government and waste. My plan invests in education and our people. And it gives Americans tax cuts that will help our country grow.

Tonight, I propose that we pass a major new targeted tax cut that will safeguard the value of the biggest single asset of American families -- their homes. Homeowners should be allowed to sell their homes without paying a capital gains tax. And we should expand IRAs so people can save tax free to buy a home. I want every American to be able to hear those beautiful words: Welcome home.

Every tax cut I call for tonight is targeted, responsible, and paid for within the balanced budget. My tax cuts won't undermine the economy -- they will help it. We should cut taxes for

the family of the child going to college . . . for the worker who returns to college . . . for the family saving to buy a home -- or sell a home . . . for middle income families trying to raise their children. That's the right way to cut taxes.

Our opponents have put forward a very different plan -- a risky \$550 billion tax scheme that we cannot afford, and that would only be paid for with devastating cuts.

This tax scheme will explode the deficit . . . spike interest rates -- by 2% -- and require huge cuts in the very investments that will help our economy grow. Our opponents are asking us to accept slower growth, fewer jobs, a more divided America, and a compromised future -- for the sake of a theory we know won't work.

And if you thought last year's cuts were bad, these will be much, much worse.

Do we really want to make the same mistake again? To raise interest rates again? To stop economic growth again? To court recession again? To follow the same pied pipers over the same cliff? My answer is simple: No way.

We have an obligation to our children: we must not leave them a crushing legacy of debt. We must leave them a legacy of opportunity. So this is one area where I respectfully disagree with my opponent: We should not bet the farm . . . and we certainly shouldn't bet the country.

RESPONSIBILITY

Opportunity alone is not enough. We must demand that every American take personal responsibility for themselves, their families and their country.

Welfare

I want America to build a bridge to the Year 2000 in which we as a nation take responsibility to make sure that the boarded up storefronts of our inner-city are finally open for business -- in which every single child can look out the window in the morning and see a whole community getting up and going to work.

A few miles from this hall, young people are growing up in a neighborhood where only a third of the adults go to work every day. The rest are on welfare or out of work or gave up a long time ago. There are millions more like them, from the Mississippi Delta to South Central L.A. We want these young people to know the thrill of that first paycheck, the challenge of starting a business, the pride of following in a parent's footsteps.

The welfare reform law I signed last week is a chance for America to have a new beginning -- to strike a new social bargain with the poor. We have to take our responsibility -- so they can take theirs. We are finally requiring everyone who can work, to go to work -- now we have a responsibility to make sure there are jobs to go to. We have a moral obligation to bring

the dignity of work and the liberating power of free enterprise to our nation's forgotten inner-cities.

Tonight, I want to propose a plan to build on this new beginning, that will move 1 million welfare recipients into jobs that last.

The law I signed has given states the biggest job creation tool in history. From now on, any state can take the money now spent on welfare, and use it to help businesses hire people off welfare and train them for jobs. I challenge every state to take us up on this offer.

We should give businesses a tax credit for every person they hire off welfare and keep in a job for 9 months. We should offer job placement firms a \$3000 bonus for every welfare recipient they place in a job if the worker stays in the job. We should help communities to put welfare recipients to work -- repairing schools, starting child care centers, making their neighborhoods shine again.

We spend enormous time opening markets for America around the world, and we should. But let's never forget: The greatest untapped market for America . . . is right here in America. So let's expand our Empowerment Zones that draw businesses into poor neighborhoods; let's have more community development banks -- like South Shore here in Chicago -- to help start small businesses; let's clean up urban toxic waste sites so that free enterprise can take root.

Every single American watching tonight who has ever said a disparaging word about the welfare system should say: "That's gone. Now, what is my responsibility to make it better?" Every business person who has had a beef with welfare should look for ways to hire and train someone who was on welfare.

Let me tell you who this is all about. A decade ago, a woman named Lillie Hardin moved from welfare to work with the help of a program I started in my home state. I asked her, "What is the best thing about being off of welfare?" She told me: "The best thing about being off welfare is that when my boy goes to school, and they ask him, 'What does your momma do?' he has an answer." Today, Lillie Hardin works in a grocery store in Little Rock. One daughter is an honors student. One is a physical therapist. Her oldest son has a job and a family. And her other son is going to college.

I want every family to have the opportunity and to take the responsibility that Lillie Hardin and her family have. And I want every person in America to pledge tonight: We will end the permanent underclass -- isolated, forgotten, and exiled from the promise of America. In the 21st Century, we will not have a single person to waste.

Crime

I want America to build a bridge to the Year 2000 where our children are not killing

children . . . where our children's lives are not shattered by violence at home or in the schoolyard . . . where a generation of young people is not left to raise itself alone on the streets.

We are putting 100,000 police on the street . . . making three-strikes-and-you're out the law of the land . . . and taking deadly assault weapons off the street . . . but the only way to truly turn back crime is for every American to learn right from wrong and take personal responsibility to be a good citizen.

We ask the police to keep us safe. We must do our part to keep them safe. We must ban cop-killer bullets -- designed for one reason: to kill police. They have no place on America's streets.

We all owe a great debt to Sarah and Jim Brady for their courage. We must extend the Brady Bill to say: anyone with a record of violence against their spouse or child should not own a gun.

We should pass a victims' rights Constitutional Amendment because victims deserve to be heard -- and need to know when an assailant is released.

We have made so much progress; even crime among young people is down. So it is very, very painful to me that drug use among young people is up. Drugs nearly killed my brother when he was a young man -- and I hate them.

We must break the cycle of drugs and crime. General Barry McCaffrey, a four star general who led our fight against drugs in Latin America, now leads our crusade against drugs -- stopping drugs at our borders, cracking down on those who sell them, and calling on America to turn our children away from drugs and gangs.

Time and again, I have asked Congress for more resources to fight drugs, but the leaders of this Congress have just said no. Tonight, I ask again. I challenge Congress, when they return next week, to pass each and every anti-drug program I have submitted, and that America needs.

Parolees who go back on drugs should go back to jail.

And never forget: Parents have a responsibility to teach their children this truth: Drugs are deadly, drugs are wrong, drugs may cost you your life.

We and we must put a stop to the violence of teen gangs. We used the anti-racketeering laws to put the leaders of the Mob away. The new crime organizations that are terrorizing our children and taking over our streets are the gangs. Now we will use the anti-racketeering law to break the back of the gangs.

[Dimitrios Theofanis story -- "make my son free"]

My fellow Americans, in the 21st Century, we must make all of our children free -- free of the vise-like grip of guns, gangs and drugs, free to build lives of hope.

COMMUNITY

Perhaps the most important thing we can do as a country is to continue to come together, in spite of all of our differences, as one community, one America, concerned about our future.

We begin with the family. You can't have a strong country, you can't have strong values, unless you have strong families.

The first person to teach me that was here with us four years ago. I miss my mother very much. And I will never forget what she gave me. She worked long hours as a nurse; she came home, bone tired, and worked longer hours as a mother. From her, I learned how deeply a parent wants to succeed at work and at home. And from her, I learned that you can't do it alone. We as a community -- neighbors, friends, all Americans working together -- have a duty to pull together.

I want to build an America for the Year 2000 where we cherish all our children, and strengthen our families. Where parents have our help protecting their children from outside influences, and giving their children something as simple, and precious as their time.

We must do nothing less than revolutionize the relationship between work and family, so every parent can succeed at work and at home. We must extend the Family Medical Leave Law to give parents time off each month to take a child to a doctor or to visit her school. And we must pass a flextime law allowing employees to ask their bosses for time and a half overtime in either pay, or time off. We want parents to have the thing our children need more of: time with us.

Our children deserve to be protected from influences that are more powerful than they are. An FDA rule now targets the tobacco ads that target our children. It will take time for this rule to take effect, and powerful forces will oppose us. But today 3000 children started to smoke, 1000 of them will die early as a result. And I pledge to America's parents: as long as I am President we will protect our children from tobacco.

We are making sure that parents will have the V-chip, that TV shows will soon be rated for content, and that there will be 3 hours of quality children's programming every week on every network.

We should build a bridge to an America for the Year 2000 where every parent knows that

their child has health insurance. The Kennedy-Kassebaum law -- the most significant health insurance reform in a generation -- says every American will be able to keep their health insurance coverage when they change jobs -- even if a family member is sick. Tonight we must spell out how we take the next steps.

In the next four years, we must extend paid health insurance for six months to any worker who is unemployed. A parent may be without a job; but no child should be without a doctor.

We should make it illegal for HMOs to stop their doctors from telling patients the best treatment, not just the cheapest. We should require insurance companies to pay for mothers to stay at least 48 hours in the hospital after giving birth. The best health care system in the world should treat patients right.

And we must do more, as a community, to make sure that every child gets the love and support of her parents.

In four years, we have brought the rate of teen pregnancy down. In the next four years, a national campaign against teen pregnancy should help us bring it down more.

In just four years, we have increased child support collections by 40%. In the next four years, we must put the IRS to work collecting overdue child support.

Unlike our opponents, we do not whisper our position on choice, we proclaim it: abortion should be safe, legal and rare. This decision must be left to a woman, her conscience, and her God. We respect the individual conscience of every American on this issue.

Whatever your views on this difficult issue, let us agree on this: We should make adoption more and more available. Last week, I signed a bill to provide a \$5000 tax credit -- again, fully paid for -- to help families adopt children and put an end to racial preferences in adoption.

Environment

As we do all these things to help give our children stronger lives, we must pass on to future generations the earth that God gave us.

We are making our food safer from pesticides and protecting our drinking water from poisons . . . we dramatically upgraded meat and poultry inspection . . . we saved Yellowstone from the ravages of mining, the priceless Arctic Refuge from oil drilling, and the Everglades from out-of-control development.

And when the leaders of this Congress let a small army of lobbyists for polluters into the back rooms, to roll back 25 years of bipartisan environmental protections, I said no.

Now, I want to build an America for the Year 2000 where our families will know with certainty: that toxic waste is not seeping into the water they drink . . . if poisonous chemicals are being transported nearby . . . and that those who deliberately pollute will be forced to pay for the cleanup and pay for their crime.

Today, 12 million children live within 6 miles of a toxic waste dump. That's 12 million too many. We have cleaned up 197 toxic waste sites in the past two years -- more than in the previous 12 combined. Let us commit that by the end of this century, we will clean up 500 more -- 2/3 of all the toxic waste Superfund sites in the country.

We should give every family in every community the right to know exactly which toxic chemicals are being transported through their streets or stored in their neighborhood.

We should pass a new law that makes it a crime to attempt to pollute . . . and that lets us freeze the assets of the polluter until he pays to clean up the mess he has made.

Foreign policy

America's strength as a community matters not only to us, but to the world. I want to lead an America that builds bridges to the world, where America remains the world's indispensable nation -- leading, as no other nation can, to keep our children safe from terrorz and weapons of mass destruction -- and to keep our world at peace.

I am determined that the peace signed on the White House lawn between Israelis and Palestinians must embrace more of Israel's neighbors . . . that the deep desire for peace I felt on the streets of Belfast will become real for all the people of Northern Ireland . . . and that, in the next four years, Cuba will finally join the family of democracies.

Nothing in our lifetimes has been more heartening than when the people of the former Soviet Union and Central Europe broke the grip of Communism. I want to continue our strong partnership with a democratic Russia. And by the Year 2000, we will bring some of Europe's new democracies into NATO -- so their freedom is never in doubt again.

America is once again the world's number one exporter. In the next four years, we must break down even more barriers. We must make it possible for the best workers and products in the world -- for America's workers and America's products -- to get the fair deal they deserve, with the free trade they deserve. That's how we compete and win.

After 50 years of nuclear terror, there are now no Russian missiles pointed at our cities or our children. By the Year 2000, we must enforce and ratify those measures that will further reduce nuclear arsenals, banish poison gas from this earth, and ban nuclear tests once and for all time.

By the Year 2000, we will have increased funding to modernize our weapons by 40%. Our military remains the best trained, best equipped fighting force in the world -- and we must always keep it that way.

We are developing a sensible National Missile Defense. But we will not -- now or by the Year 2000 -- squander \$60 billion on an unproved, ineffective Star Wars program that could be obsolete tomorrow.

I want to build an America that is winning the war against terror, standing firm against reckless rogue states like Iran, Iraq and Libya and the forces of hatred here at home, building on our three-front anti-terrorism strategy.

First, we must rally the world in a coalition of zero tolerance for terrorism. This month, I signed a law imposing harsh sanctions on foreign companies that invest in key sectors of the Iranian or Libyan economy. They will pay the price for their actions . . . as long as Iran trains, supports and protects terrorists . . . and as long as Libya refuses to give up the people who blew up Pan Am 103.

Second, we will give law enforcement the tools to take the fight to terrorists and criminals. We must pass a law to crack down on money laundering, and lengthen our reach in prosecuting and punishing those who commit violent crimes against Americans abroad. We must pass a law adding chemical markers to the gunpowder used in bombs, so that we can track down the bomb makers. And we must pass a law to extend the power to save lives by tapping all the phones that terrorists use.

Third, we will install the most sophisticated bomb detection equipment in our major airports and search every plane flying to or from America -- every flight, every cargo hold, every cabin, every time.

After the Cold War, there are times when only America can make the difference between war and peace, freedom and repression, life and death. We cannot save all the world's children -- but we can save many. We cannot become the world's policeman -- but where our values, and our interests, are at stake, we must act. America must lead.

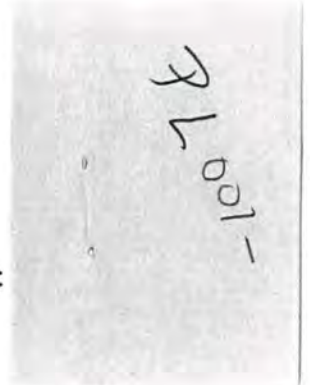
ENDING TO COME

8/25/96 9 pm

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN

9/9/96

**PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON
ACCEPTANCE SPEECH
DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL CONVENTION
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS
August 29, 1996**



Mr. Chairman, Mr. Vice-President, fellow Democrats, my fellow Americans:

Let me begin by saluting a man who is my strong partner and close friend, with whom I have had the privilege of working for the past four years, and with whom I expect to work for four more years -- the Vice-President of the United States of America, Al Gore.

Tonight I thank Chicago, city of the big shoulders and a great heart. And thank you, Chicago, for giving me the love of my life -- my wife, Hillary.

Four years ago, you honored me with your nomination to the highest office in the land. We set out to fulfill our vision -- to offer opportunity to all, to demand responsibility from all, and to build a new American community. That night, in New York, together we made clear that we still believed in that most American of all places, a place called Hope.

Four years ago, we had to begin our journey with hope. Our people were losing heart and our most important resource: our belief in our ability to move forward -- together. Crime seemed on an inevitable climb. Welfare seemed to be an impenetrable system of dependence. The budget

deficit seemed a permanent shackle on our economic dreams. A new global economy seemed a threat to our dreams, not the gateway to a new age of possibility for all of our hardworking people.

These unsolved problems seemed to open wounds in our generous American soul. A nation built on equality found racial division on the rise. A nation built on the promise of progress found its path blocked; hardworking Americans replaced the hope of moving higher with resentment of those stuck below. And too many politicians climbed the ladder of these resentments to higher office. They used these problems as issues to be exploited, not challenges to be met. When the times demanded that we join hands, they pointed fingers.

 My fellow Americans, faith begins with hope. And, bit by powerful bit, in the last four years, we have seen our hope become our confidence, and our confidence become a new faith in ourselves as a nation, a new faith in America.

 Four years ago, I was determined to offer a leadership that would tell America not “who to blame,” but “what to do.” We have stepped up to the tough issues, the real problems that affect our people in their daily lives. We have made progress on the straightforward vision we set forth to fulfill: To keep the American dream alive for all our people. To remain the world’s strongest force for peace and freedom. And to come together as a nation around our fundamental values.

We created economic opportunity to restore the American Dream. 10 million new jobs.

The lowest combined rates of inflation and unemployment and montages in 30 years. Wages rising again. And last week, I signed legislation raising the minimum wage, moving people from welfare to work, and assuring that when Americans change jobs, they can take their health insurance with them.

With the help of the Vice-President, we cut 250,000 jobs from the federal workforce; now our government is the smallest -- and the most efficient -- it has been since John F. Kennedy was President. And, today the deficit that was strangling our progress is 60% smaller than four years ago. > signley

We began to put 100,000 more police on the streets; we toughened penalties; we stopped felons and fugitives from buying handguns; we banned assault rifles. For four years now, the crime rate has dropped. Now even the juvenile murder rate is down.

We worked with states to launch dozens of experiments to replace welfare with work. Because of this quiet revolution, 1.6 million fewer people are on welfare than on the day I took office.

We have kept America strong around the world. Tonight, no one, anywhere on this planet -- from Russia, to Bosnia, to the Middle East -- doubts that America is the strongest force for peace and freedom and prosperity in the world.

And most important, we are coming together to meet our challenges and protect our values, united, as one America. That is why I have spoken out over these months, to show how we can work to meet the challenges in our people's lives and to protect the values that have always made us strong -- community by community, school by school, block by block.

The era of big government is over. But we cannot go back to an era of fend for yourself.

We need a government that is leaner and more efficient — but one that is strong enough to help
 Over-lookers — in a way that a chance, to see a true bill against gov't. Can a
 people make it, to give them the tools to make the most of their God-given potential.
 We're to fly.

Tonight, we embark again on a great debate about our country's direction. The issue in this election is this: What kind of country will we build for the Year 2000? How will we go into the 21st Century? What will America look like at the dawn of the next century? What will she look like when our children and our grandchildren are our age?

So let me make clear that Bob Dole and Jack Kemp -- and Ross Perot -- are men who love our country and have served it with distinction. Let us honor their service, and our fellow citizens, by making this a campaign of ideas, not insults. Let us clearly state the differences in our records and our vision for the future, but let us not demean each other, our parties, or our devotion to America. I say to all of you: This must be a campaign that brings us together -- and takes us into the future.

The past, even my record, even the record of our opponents, only matter as guides to the

future. I love and revere the history of America as much as any other President who has ever served. I am determined to take our best traditions into the future. But with all respect, we do not need to build a bridge to the past -- we need to build a bridge to the future.

A century ago, our grandparents built a bridge between eras -- and the Progressive Era of Theodore Roosevelt and Woodrow Wilson millions of Americans cross into the industrial age and the new century. ogressive Era. We have met so many of the challenges of this century -- and our country is moving foward, confident and strong.

^{we}
But ^A must make sure that every American can reap the rewards of this new era. We know that there are still people who are not sharing in all the bounty of this new age of possibility. And this country will not be all it can be if we do not find a way to help everyone move confidently, forward, together. We must make sure that America is ready for the stiff challenges and remarkable opportunities of our new century.

So tonight I will outline a new progressive agenda for reform in America -- an agenda for action that will allow us to meet our challenges, protect our values and prepare this country for the 21st Century. We must help every parent to raise their child. We must help every young person and working person get the education and training they need. We must make families feel safe again on the streets. We must finally break the cycle of poverty and dependency that grips our cities. We must protect our environment for generations to come. We must keep America the strongest nation on earth. We must do all these things, and in so doing we will

improve every aspect of daily life as we move forward to the new century.

Then, when our time here is over, we will be able to watch the sun go down, and say, truly, we have prepared our children for the dawn.

Family

We begin with the family. You can't have a strong country, you can't have strong individuals, unless you have strong families. The first bill I signed into law, the Family and Medical Leave Act, lets parents bond with children in their first weeks of life. 12 million Americans have used it. We have given parents the V-chip, TV shows will be soon be rated for content, and there will soon be 3 hours of quality childrens' programming on the air on every network every week.

Now, I want to build an America for the Year 2000 in which families are stronger, able to succeed at work and at home in raising their children, to have the security of health care and their own home.

We must extend the Family Medical Leave Law to give parents time off each month to take a child to a doctor or to visit her school. And we must pass a law allowing employees to ask their bosses for time and a half overtime in either pay, or time off. We want parents and children to have the thing we all need more of: time with our children.

We should pass a tax cut that gives parents the money to raise their children. We have already cut taxes for 15 million working families. But too many families are still faced with rising costs and limited wage gains. I propose to cut taxes another \$500 for every child under 13 in every middle income family. And my tax cut -- like every one of my tax cut proposals -- is fully paid for in my balanced budget plan. It will not increase the deficit and raise your interest rates, or require bigger cuts in investments that are important to our future.

I want to build an America for the Year 2000 where single mothers, struggling to bring up children, get every penny absent fathers owe them. In just four years, we have increased child support collections by 40%. In the next four years, we must put the IRS to work collecting overdue child support. [And we should instruct the IRS to take all tax deductions away from any taxpayer whose child support is overdue. No one should be able to write off deductions if they have written off their children.]

I want to build an America in the Year 2000 where every parent has the security of knowing that their child has health insurance. The Kennedy-Kassebaum law says every American will be able to keep their health insurance coverage when they change jobs -- even if they or a family member has a preexisting health condition. This will help [x] million Americans with diabetes, [x] million with cancer, [x] million with AIDS.

In the next four years, we must extend paid health insurance for six months to anyone who is unemployed. A parent may be without a job; but no child should be without a doctor.

Today, it is unconscionable that too many insurance companies cut costs by casting mothers and babies out of the hospital within hours of birth. We should guarantee that insurance cover at least 48 hours in the hospital for new mothers and their babies. Those extra hours under a doctor's care can mean the difference between life and death.

[Paragraph on opening federal health insurance pools to small business -- when proposal is firmed up.]

Patients have a right to know they are getting the right treatment, not just the cheapest. We should pass a law making it illegal for HMOs to retaliate against doctors who tell their patients about alternate, higher cost forms of treatment.

We should expand IRAs so that [*X million Americans*] may save money tax free to use for medical expenses. Families should be able to protect their health without without mortgaging their financial health.

And we have already taken perhaps the most important action in a generation to protect public health. We are targeting the tobacco ads that target our children. This will take time, and powerful forces will oppose us. But I pledge to America's parents: as long as I am President we will protect our children from tobacco.

We have already achieved a record level of homeownership -- by cutting closing costs for the average first time homebuyer by \$1000, and by keeping interest rates low. Now, in the next four years, we should pass a targeted tax cut to allow homeowners to sell their homes without paying a capital gains tax. And we should expand IRAs so people can save tax free to buy a home. And we will pay for this tax cut by cutting government spending. I want every American to be able to hear those beautiful words: Welcome home.

In the next four years, we must do more to make sure that every child grows up in a home with loving parents who are able to care for her. Unlike our opponents, I do not whisper our position on freedom-of-choice; I proclaim it: I believe abortion should be safe, legal and rare. I believe this decision must be left to a woman, her conscience, and her God. But our party platform also proudly says: we respect the individual conscience of every American, including those in our party who believe this choice should never be made.

We should do whatever we can to make abortion more rare. That is why we have worked to establish a national campaign against teen pregnancy that promotes successful local efforts at reducing it; and that is why we must make adoption more and more the alternative. Last week, I signed a bill to provide a \$5000 tax credit -- again, fully paid for -- to help families adopt children and put an end to racial preferences in adoption, which too often entrap children in the limbo of foster care when there are good parents who are more than willing to adopt them.

I want every American child to know the love so many of us have known. My mother was with here four years ago; she is not here tonight. I miss her very much. But I will never forget what she gave me. She worked long hours as a nurse; she came home, bone tired, and worked longer hours as a mother. From her, I learned how deeply a parent wants to succeed at work and at home. I want an America in the Year 2000 where every child will have the same love with a parent that I was blessed to have with my mother.

Education

Every American should have the opportunity to live out their dreams in a 21st Century economy -- and that begins with education, by far the most important thing to our strength as a nation and to our economy. We have invested in our children and their future -- dramatically expanding Head Start, cutting class sizes and improving teacher training, and doubling the number of anti-drug counseling programs in our schools. SAT scores are up; math scores are up; reading scores are up. But we must do more. We must give our children the best chance they can have.

I want to build an America for the Year 2000 where every neighborhood is proud to point to its rebuilt school, where computers are as much a part of the classroom as blackboards, where highly trained teachers demand peak performance from our children. I want to build an America for the Year 2000 where every 8-year-old can point to a book and say: "I read it myself." And

above all, I want to build an America where every person who wants to -- goes to college.

Literacy is freedom -- and we must set our children free. In the Year 2000, I want an America where every third grader can read and write. Today, 40% of our children cannot read or write by the 3rd grade. Some learn late; some never really learn at all.

So I am proposing a bold literacy program: To hire 50,000 reading specialists for our schools where too many students read below grade level. They will recruit and train volunteers to create an education army of 1 million people to teach our children to read.

We will also provide funds to keep schools open, from early in the morning until early at night, so young people can stay off the street and develop the skills to live good lives.

We need rigorous standards and vigorous innovation at every level. States should give their students tough tests as they move from school to school. No more social promotions. States should reward good teachers and remove those who don't measure up. Parents should be helped as they set up new schools that work to replace old schools that don't -- and they should be able to send their children to the best public school their communities can create.

And if the Congress sends me legislation that cuts the heart out of education, that expands class sizes or shrinks from drug treatment, I will veto it.

In the Year 2000, I want to see America's schools rebuilt, modernized, wired for computers and prepared to cope with the rapidly increasing enrollments. We should increase school construction by at least 25%; we cannot ask our children to learn in a landscape of peeling paint and broken glass.

Computers are remaking our world. When this convention gathered four years ago, there was no such thing as a "web page" on the Internet. Today, even Socks, my cat, has one. Our mission is clear: We must connect every single classroom and library in America to the world wide web of computers, information and knowledge, by the Year 2000.

In the new economy, the mission of education doesn't stop on graduation day. We need to give working people training that will take them from skill to skill throughout a lifetime. We should pass a GI Bill for America's workers. It scraps the tangle of job training programs, and gives every working person who needs it a skills grant so they can get the training they need, wherever they want to get it.

And above all, if we want all our people to prosper in the emerging economy of the new century, then more and more Americans must go to college.

By the Year 2000, every American high school graduate who wants to go to college must have the opportunity to do so. Our direct student loan program, enacted over strong special interest opposition, has cut costs and improved repayment options for [x] Americans. We have

expanded Pell Grant scholarships. And we have offered, through Americorps, the chance for 50,000 young people to earn their way through college by serving your community.

Now we must do more. We must make the 13th and 14th years of school -- the first two years of college -- to be as universal as the first 12 years are today.

We should give every person in America a \$1500-a-year tuition tax credit, which they can use for the first two years of college. These "Hope Scholarships" will make the typical community college free. No single tax cut will do more to give Americans hope -- and tangible reason to hope -- than this one.

We should give every family a \$10,000 tuition tax deduction for the next two years of school, or for adults who go back to school. We will pay for it by closing tax loopholes for large multinational corporations. We will say to Americans: Do the work, expand your skills, and we will help you pay for it.

I am proposing an expanded IRA of \$2000 for each child, which parents may save each year tax-free. This tax cut, too, is fully paid for by spending cuts

With all these reforms, we should change the tax code so that for middle income Americans, the money that pays for school is never, ever taxed.

Economy/budget

And we all know that a growing, thriving economy is essential if we are to give opportunity to all our people.

Today, America's economy is growing. We sell more cars than Japan. 4.4 million new homeowners. Hundreds of thousands of businesses owned by women. The lowest combined rate of unemployment, inflation, mortgages in 30 years. 10 million new jobs. And hourly earnings -- the paycheck of the American worker -- are starting to rise again for the first time in a decade.

Yes, our economy is the strongest in 30 years. You know who said that? My opponent said that -- and he is right.

I want to build an America for the Year 2000 in which we are balancing the budget -- with a budget that reflects our values.

For years, politicians talked about balancing the budget; we are doing it. Today, thanks to our tough cuts, the deficit is its smallest since 1981 -- and heading down. To keep our economy growing steady and strong, we must finish the job. Balancing the budget will lead to a permanent cut in interest rates; it will spark business enterprise, free up capital for jobs, and help consumers have a better life.

There are two economic plans before the American people.

My plan balances the budget, with real, certified reductions in programs and waste. It invests in education and our people. And it gives Americans tax cuts that will help our country grow. The tax cuts I am calling for tonight are responsible and targeted to give people the tools they need to make the most of their own lives. We should cut taxes for the family of the child going to college . . . for the worker who returns to college . . . for the family saving to buy a home -- or sell a home . . . for middle income families trying to raise their children.

The \$110 billion in tax cuts I have proposed will not only help people in their individual lives. My tax cuts will strengthen the economy -- moving people from welfare to work, reviving isolated inner cities, promoting investment, spurring homeownership. They will strengthen the economy -- because these tax cuts are targeted, responsible, and paid for within the balanced budget. They won't undermine the economy -- they will help it.

Our opponents have proposed a \$550 billion dollar, risky, across the board tax cut. It will explode the deficit. It will spike interest rates -- by 2%. It will require huge cuts in the very investments that will help our economy grow. Our opponents are asking us to accept higher interest rates, slower growth, fewer jobs, a more divided America, and a compromised future.

In the 1980s, we tried this approach. Their huge deficits laid the basis for the icy

recession that was gripping our economy in the first years of this decade. Now, for four years, we have struggled, sacrificed and saved, to cut this deficit by more than half. Now we are on the way to a balanced budget.

Are we now to make the same mistake again? To raise interest rates again? To stop economic growth again? To court recession again? To follow the same pied pipers over the same cliff? My answer is simple: No way.

We would have a surplus today were it not for the interest on the very debt run up in 12 years before I took office, caused by this very policy. We can now make this economy work for all Americans if we do the right thing -- are we going to take a U-turn to the policies that have failed us again and again?

An exploding deficit would not be the only consequence of our opponent's plan. As soon as our opponents won the Congress two years ago, they sought a massive tax cut that we could not afford, and sought to pay for it with cuts in crucial areas. Last year's cuts were bad; this year's cuts would be much, much worse.

I rejected their plan then, and let me be clear: As long as I am President, I will never allow cuts that devastate education for our children, pollute our environment, gut health care under Medicaid, or violate our duty to our parents under Medicare. I vetoed their budget last year; I was proud to do it; and if I have to, I will do it again.

And let me say one other thing: As long as I am President, I will never allow Congress to use the blackmail threat of a government shutdown to try and break the will of the American people into supporting deep cuts in Medicare, Medicaid, education or the environment.

Our opponents in the other party have always complained about government, they always said government is too big. But we, the Democrats, reduced the government by 250,000, its smallest size since John Kennedy was President. That means the federal employees who were left are doing a better job . . . they are more productive than ever before . . . and they do not deserve a government shutdown.

That is the choice before the American people. Cut taxes by \$110 billion, not by \$550 billion. Pay for them with reasonable spending cuts, not with borrowed money -- and not by eviscerating Medicare, Medicaid, education and the environment. And target the tax cuts where they will do real things to help real people to help our nation grow.

This is one area where I respectfully disagree with my opponent: We should not bet the farm . . . and you certainly shouldn't bet the country.

[WELFARE REWRITE TO COME -- BRUCE REED IS WORKING ON IT]

Crime

And our people will never be free until they are free from the paralyzing fear of crime. We must work toward a day when crime is the exception, not the rule -- when we turn on the evening news and are surprised, not numbed, when we see a crime. We have made enormous progress in taking back our streets from crime and gangs and guns. I have stood by our police. I am grateful for the support my candidacy has received from the National Association of Police Officers . . . and the International Union of Police Associations. No support means more to me than theirs.

I want to build an America for the Year 2000 where women and children will not fear violence at home or at school, where the voices of crime victims will finally be heard in our courtrooms, where the gangs that once ran wild in our neighborhoods have been chased-down, locked-up, and kicked-out, where our children learn right from wrong and are given something to say "yes" to.

We cannot go into the 21st Century vital and strong if children are still killing children . . . if children's lives are shattered by violence at home or in the schoolyard . . . if a generation of young people is left to raise itself alone on the streets . . . if drug use is going down among adults but up among children.

Too many women and too many children live in mortal fear of domestic violence -- and each year, there are 150,000 acts (ck) of domestic violence involving a gun. [Sarah Brady thank you?] We must extend the Brady Bill to say: if you have a record of violence against your own

family, you cannot buy a gun. If we do this, four years from now thousands of women who would have lost their lives to domestic violence will be alive.

Row after row of prison inmates are behind bars because of drug problems. We do society no favors -- we do them no favors -- when they hit the streets and go back on drugs again. We must break the cycle of drugs and crime. In 1994, we gave the states ample resources to build prisons. And now I want them to use some of that money to drug test parolees. Our message to parolees must be: if you go back on drugs, you go back to jail.

We must ban the cop-killer bullets that are designed with one purpose in mind: to kill police. If a bullet can cut through a police officer's bulletproof vest like a hot knife through butter, it has no place on our streets.

And by the Year 2000, our Constitution ought to protect victims of crime -- not just criminals. Victims of crime should have the right to be heard at trial, at sentencing, or at a parole hearing. And they should be warned when their assailant leaves prison. Because it is the only way to guarantee these rights to all our citizens, I support a Constitutional Amendment to guarantee victims rights.

By the Year 2000, I want criminal teenage gangs in full retreat. To win this victory, we will use our most potent legal tool -- the anti-racketeering RICO statute. RICO brought the mob to its knees. RICO helped smash the Medellin drug cartel. It gives law enforcement the ability

to track gangs and stop them before they act. Let's break the back of the gangs.

We have made so much progress in so many areas; crime among young people is down; murder among young people is down. So it is very, very painful to me that drug use among young people is up. Drugs nearly killed my brother when he was a young man -- and I hate them.

We must do more as a nation to turn our young people from a path that can kill them. General Barry McCaffrey, hero of the Gulf War, now leads our citizen crusade to combat drugs as our nation's drug czar. He is pursuing a strategy that is focused on our children. [*2 sentences on details*]

Above all else, we must teach our children that drugs are risky, and illegal, and wrong. I have asked Congress, time and time again, for more resources to fight drugs -- but too often, this Congress has said no. So tonight, in the face of new evidence of the dangers of drugs to our kids, I ask again. As soon as Congress returns next week, I challenge them to pass legislation funding all the anti-drug programs that our country needs. Let us vow to build an America where drug use among our children is going down, down, down.

Environment

We have an obligation to pass on to future generations the earth that God gave us.

Last month, I signed new laws that are taking health-threatening pesticides from our fruits and vegetables and protecting our drinking water from poisons that can fell thousands of people. Last month, we dramatically upgraded our meat and poultry inspections to take full advantage of modern technology. We saved Yellowstone from the ravages of mining, the priceless Arctic Refuge from oil drilling, and the Everglades from out-of-control development.

And when the leaders of this Congress let a small army of lobbyists for polluters into the back rooms, to rewrite and roll back 25 years of bipartisan environmental protections, I said no.

Now we must do more.

I want to build an America for the Year 2000 where every family is safe from poisonous chemicals in the water they drink, in the food they eat, and in our rivers and streams.

We have cleaned up more toxic waste sites in the past two years than in the previous 12 combined. In the next four years, we will clean up 2/3 of the toxic waste sites in the country. After years and, in some cases, decades on the Superfund list, these sites will be clean.

By the Year 2000, we should give every family in every community the right to know exactly which toxic chemicals are being transported through their streets or stored in their neighborhood.

We should make it a crime to attempt to pollute. We will establish an environmental crimes division in the FBI, and catch polluters before they can poison our land.

No longer will environmental criminals be able to use the courts to delay justice. Under a new law, we will be able to go to court as soon as we find pollution, and freeze the assets of the polluter until he pays to clean up the mess he has made.

Foreign policy

For fifty years, America led the world's forces of freedom. Today, America is the world's indispensable nation.

I want to build an America in the Year 2000 that remains the world's greatest force for peace and freedom. We are embracing our responsibility to do what no other nation can do as well -- to shape the next century so that our children and children around the world live free and at peace.

We have helped bring freedom to South Africa, democracy to Haiti, and peace to Bosnia. By the Year 2000, I want to build an America that extends the reach of peace and freedom even farther -- so that the peace signed on the White House lawn between Israelis and Palestinians embraces more of Israel's neighbors... so that the extraordinary desire for peace I felt on the streets of Belfast becomes real for all the people of Northern Ireland... and so that right here in

our own hemisphere, Cuba finally joins the family of democracies.

Nothing in our lifetimes was more heartening than when the people of the former Soviet Union and Central Europe threw off the yoke of Communism. We have strengthened the forces of reform in those countries. We have helped Russia withdraw its troops from the Baltics. By the Year 2000, I want to continue building a strong partnership with a democratic Russia. And we will have brought some of Europe's new democracies into NATO so that their freedom is never again in doubt.

We have opened up markets to our goods and services through more than 200 trade agreements -- including 21 with Japan alone -- that are creating good new jobs at home. America is once again the world's number one exporter. By the Year 2000, we must break down even more barriers to our prosperity. America has the best workers and products in the world. Give them a fair deal with free trade and they will compete -- and win -- in the new global economy.

We are lifting the dark cloud of nuclear fear that has hung over our heads for fifty years. There are now no Russian missiles pointed at our cities or our children. Ukraine, Belarus, and Kazakhstan are giving up the nuclear weapons left on their land when the Soviet Union dissolved. We have frozen North Korea's nuclear program under international supervision. And we extended the Non Proliferation Treaty indefinitely -- so that nuclear weapons do not spread to other countries.

By the Year 2000, we must enforce with Russia the START II treaty -- and slashed our nuclear arsenals by two thirds from their Cold War peak.

By the Year 2000, we must ratify the Chemical Weapons Convention -- so that we can begin to banish poison gas from this earth.

By the Year 2000, we must enforce a total ban on nuclear testing -- so that no nuclear weapon is exploded ever again.

I want to build an America that is winning the war against terror and aggression, by standing against reckless rogue states like Iran, Iraq and Libya and the forces of hatred here at home.

Our anti-terrorism strategy is moving forward on three fronts.

First, we must rally the world community to join a coalition of zero tolerance for terrorism. Already, we are sharing intelligence as never before and opening FBI offices abroad. This month, I signed a law imposing harsh sanctions on foreign companies that invest in key sectors of the Iranian or Libyan economy. They will pay the price for their actions . . . as long as Iran trains, supports and protects terrorists... as long as Libya refuses to give up the people who blew up Pan Am 103.

Second, we will give our law enforcement the tools they need to take the fight to terrorists and criminals. By the Year 2000, through a new International Crime Control Act that I am proposing, we will crack down on money laundering, expand our powers of extradition, and lengthen our reach in prosecuting and punishing those who commit violent crimes against Americans abroad.

When a bomb explodes in America today, we must rely on old police methods to find the culprit. I want Congress to pass a law adding chemical markers to the gunpowder used in bombs, so that we can track down the bomb makers.

When a terrorist uses a pay telephone or a motel phone to plot an attack, we cannot tap his conversation and protect our citizens by anticipating his actions. I want Congress to help us save lives by tapping all the phones that a terrorist uses.

Third, we will tighten aviation security. We will install the most sophisticated bomb detection equipment in our major airports. And we will search every plane flying to or from America -- every flight, every cargo hold, every cabin, every time.

There are those who would doubt our military. But it remains the best trained, best equipped fighting force in the world. Don't take my word for it. Just ask Saddam Hussein why he pulled his forces back from Kuwait's border two years ago... ask the dictators in Haiti why they gave way to democracy... ask the Bosnian Serbs why they turned from the battlefield to the

bargaining table. By the Year 2000, we will have increased funding for weapons modernization by 40%. America's troops have won the wars of the past. If called upon, they will dominate the battlefields of the future.

And for the year 2000, we are developing a sensible National Missile Defense. But we will not -- not now, and not by the Year 2000 -- squander \$60 billion on an unproved, ineffective Star Wars program that could be obsolete tomorrow. That's the wrong way to defend America.

America is the indispensable nation. Not just for our strength, though we are strong. Not just for our wealth, though wealthy we are. But also for what we're willing to stand for -- and stand against. We are the nation others trust. The one nation that has ever led the world by the power of our ideas and example -- and when necessary, by the example of our power.

There are times when only America can make the difference between war and peace, freedom and repression, life and death. We cannot save all the world's children -- but we can save many. We cannot become the world's policeman -- but where our values, and our interests, are at stake, we must act. America must lead.

ENDING TO COME

Proof of part bridge to future

1 to go over Cynicism

8/22/96 am

**PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON
ACCEPTANCE SPEECH
DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL CONVENTION
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS
August 29, 1996**

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN
9/9/96

Mr. Chairman, Mr. Vice-President, fellow Democrats, my fellow Americans:

Let me begin by saluting a man who has carried his job to boundaries of influence and courage it has never before reached -- my partner, my friend, the Vice-President of the United States of America, Al Gore.

Tonight I thank Chicago, city of the big shoulders and a great heart. And thank you, Chicago, for giving me the love of my life -- my wife, Hillary.

Four years ago, you honored me with your nomination to the highest office in the land. You asked me to carry out a vision -- to offer opportunity to all, to demand responsibility from all, and to build a new American community. Four years ago, I told you about my hometown in Arkansas -- and that I still believed in a place called Hope.

Four years ago, crime seemed on an inevitable climb. Welfare seemed to be an impenetrable system of dependence. The budget deficit seemed a permanent shackle on our economic dreams. A new global economy seemed a threat to our dreams, not the gateway to a new age of possibility for all of our hardworking people.

These unsolved problems seemed to open wounds in our generous American soul. A nation built on equality found racial division on the rise. A nation built on the promise of progress found its path blocked; hardworking Americans replaced the hope of moving higher with resentment of those stuck below. And too many politicians climbed the ladder of these resentments to higher office. They used these problems as issues to be exploited, not challenges to be met. When the times demanded that we join hands, they pointed fingers.

Four years ago, I was determined to offer a leadership that would tell America not “who to blame,” but “what to do.” We have made progress on the straightforward vision we set forth to fulfill: To keep the American dream alive for all our people. To remain the world’s strongest force for peace and freedom. And to come together as a nation around our fundamental values.

We created economic opportunity to restore the American Dream. 10 million new jobs. The lowest combined rates of inflation and unemployment and montages in 30 years. Wages rising again. And last week, I signed legislation raising the minimum wage, moving people from welfare to work, and assuring that when Americans change jobs, they can take their health insurance with them.

With the help of the Vice-President, we cut 250,000 jobs from the federal workforce; now our government is the smallest -- and the most efficient -- it has been since John F. Kennedy was President. And, today the deficit that was strangling our progress is 60%

smaller than four years ago.

We began to put 100,000 more police on the streets; we toughened penalties; we stopped felons and fugitives from buying handguns; we banned assault rifles. For four years now, the crime rate has dropped. Now even the juvenile murder rate is down.

We worked with states to launch dozens of experiments to replace welfare with work. Because of this quiet revolution, 1.3 million fewer people are on welfare than on the day I took office.

We have kept America strong around the world. Tonight, no one, anywhere on this planet -- from Haiti, to South Africa, to Russia, to Bosnia, to the Middle East -- doubts that America is the strongest force for peace and freedom and prosperity in the world.

And most important, we have found a new faith in ourselves as a country; a new faith in America. And this renewed faith is giving us the courage to take on our new challenges, together, united, as one America. That is why I have spoken out over these months, to show how we can work to meet the challenges in our people's lives and to protect the values that have always made us strong -- community by community, school by school, block by block.

As we prove to ourselves again that, as a community, we can work together to keep our children safer, to make our schools modern and strong, to make our nation more secure,

we must fight against any force that would divide us rich from poor, black from white, and certainly generation from generation. We must, as we always have, respect and honor the legacy of the past. But I for one want the bridges we build always to be bridges to future. America's best days are not behind us; America's best is yet to come.

As our new faith grows, let us turn to the new challenges we face as a nation. How we choose to do that will be the great decision of the months ahead. Tonight, we embark again on that privilege of choosing our leaders and the great debate about our country's

direction. So let me make clear that Bob Dole and Ross Perot are ~~good~~ ^{TV/kings} men who ~~have~~ ^{were our} country ~~could have served with distinction.~~ served their country with distinction. Let us honor their service, and our fellow citizens, by making this a campaign of ideas, not insults. I say to all of you: This must be a campaign ~~and our vision for the future, but let us not demean each other, our party, or~~ ^{Let us clearly state the difference in our minds} that brings us together. ~~our devotion to America.~~ ^{and taken us into the future.}

~~Then,~~
And when our time here is over, ~~we will know we have done a good day's work.~~ We will be able to watch the sun go down, and truly say, we have prepared our children for the dawn, ~~by making the vision of America in the 21st century real~~ Now together, let us raise our eyes to the future, and see the America we want in the Year 2000 -- and the new challenges we must meet to get there.

~~What is the vision of America in the 21st century?~~ ^{able to}
~~What do we need to do to make that vision a reality?~~
I see an America in the Year 2000 in which ~~stronger~~ ^{stronger} families ~~can~~ ^{are} meet the challenge of raising our children, ~~and~~ ^{and} have the security of health care and the certainty of their own home.

PHOTOCOPY
WJC HANDWRITING

Our children need more of our time. The first bill I signed into law, The Family and Medical Leave Act, lets parents bond with children in their first weeks of life. ^{12m. American have used it} We must extend the law to give parents time off each month to take a child to ^{his} doctor or to visit her school. And we must pass a law allowing employees to ask their bosses for time and a half overtime in either pay, or time off. ~~We want parents and children to have the most precious thing of all, time with one another.~~ ^{that's the most precious thing of all} We want parents and children to have the most precious thing of all, time with one another.

We should pass a tax cut that gives parents the money to raise their children. We have already cut taxes for 15 million working families. ^{But how many families are you faced with rising costs like wage gain} I ~~will~~ ^{will} cut taxes another \$500 for every child under 13 in every middle income family. And my tax cut -- like every one of my tax cut proposals -- is fully paid for in my balanced budget plan. ^{There's not, like the old and when you're not, or require bigger cuts in I like Ed, Sam, MC, UN, critical to our future}

^{about} I ~~see~~ an America in the Year 2000 where single mothers, struggling to bring up children, get every penny absent fathers owe them. ^{In your four years} We have increased child support collections by 40%. In the next four years, we must put the IRS to work collecting overdue child support. And we will instruct the IRS to take all tax deductions away from any taxpayer whose child support is overdue. No one should be able to write off deductions if they have written off their children.

^{your} I ~~see~~ an America in the Year 2000 where no parent worries that a child has no health insurance. ^{that's vs, not for} The Kennedy-Kassebaum law is a crucial first step. ^{Tonight} Tonight we must move to the next steps.

In the next four years, we must extend paid health insurance for six months to anyone who is unemployed. A parent may be without a job; but no child should be without a doctor.

Government employees and Members of Congress -- my own family, and those of many of you here -- enjoy access to one of the best insurance programs in the world. Today, I am instructing those who administer the program to insist that the insurance companies who sell to the federal government must offer equivalent benefits to every small business and every self-employed American. You should ^{have to buy} get what we get. explain

Managed care must never mean substandard care. We will pass a law making it illegal for HMOs to retaliate against doctors who tell their patients about alternate, higher cost forms of treatment. Patients have a right to know they are getting the right treatment, not just the cheapest, ~~and we will enforce that right.~~

^{needs} I ~~see~~ an America in the Year 2000 where families can pay the medical bills insurance hasn't covered, without mortgaging their financial health. To do this, I am proposing expanding IRAs so that people may save money tax free to use for medical expenses.
— ~~in the future~~

Finally, we must work together to take the most fundamental step of all. We must follow the dictates of our conscience, and find a way to provide medical care to every uninsured child.

PHOTOCOPY
WJC HANDWRITING

I see an America in the Year 2000 where the tender lives of our children are not threatened with an early death from tobacco. We are targeting the tobacco ads that target our children. In the next four years, Joe Camel, the Marlboro Man and Miss Virginia Slims will be banned from billboards, from magazines, and from our children's lives forever.

Dugl,

Four years from now, I want our children to be able to watch television and learn values, not violence. Because of our efforts with the Vice President, we have given parents the V-chip, TV shows will be soon be rated for content, and there will soon be 3 hours of quality childrens' programming on the air on every network every week. [In the next four years, I will work with the networks and with the FCC to roll-back violence in children's programming. We cannot raise a generation of responsible citizens . . . on Power Rangers alone.]

I see an America in the Year 2000 where families can own their own homes. We have already achieved record homeownership -- in part by cutting FHA fees \$1000. In the next

(closing costs for \$1000)

four years, we will pass a targeted tax cut for homeowners to sell their homes without paying capital gains taxes. And we will expand IRAs so people can save tax free for that first down-

buying their 1st home

payment. ~~By lifting the burden of taxation, we will help put a home within reach of our~~

~~families. Then every American can hear the most beautiful words in the English language:~~

Welcome home.

I see an America in the Year 2000 where abortion is safe, legal, and rare. We do not

hide our commitment to a woman's right to choose. ~~We say~~ ^{But we also morally say} in our platform that we respect
the individual conscience of every American, ~~on this difficult issue. Her right to choose is too~~ ^{in fact who believe the choice had been or should have} ~~be made.~~
~~Through we believe the decision should be handed over to govt, but left to~~
~~important to be handed over to government. It must be a matter between~~ a woman, her
conscience, and her God,

Our goal is to make abortion ~~less necessary and~~ ^{That is why we have worked} more rare, ~~not more difficult and more~~
~~to establish a national camp in ten meg, promote successful local efforts in reducing it, it is~~
~~dangerous. Even as we protect choice, we must make adoption more and more the~~
~~alternative. That is why,~~ ^{That is why} last week, I signed a \$5000 tax credit -- again, fully paid for -- to
help families adopt children. ^{to} And ~~we also~~ put an end to racial preference in adoption. No ~~children~~
longer will the laws of 43 states keep children of one race from the loving arms of adoptive
parents of another.

In the next four years, we will bring security to the 500,000 children trapped in the
limbo of foster care. No child should be uncertain what the word family or parents or home
means. We must change the law: after a child has had a year in foster care, if his old family
is still not an appropriate place for him to live, we must find that child a home.

We want our children to know the love we have known. My mother was with us four
years ago; she is not here tonight. I miss her very much. But I will never forget what she
gave me. She worked long hours as a nurse; she came home, bone tired, and worked longer
hours as a mother. From her, I learned early in life how deeply a parent wants to succeed at
work and at home. I want an America in the Year 2000 where every child will have the

same love with a parent that I was blessed to have with my mother.

I see an America in the Year 2000 where every neighborhood is proud to point to its rebuilt school, where computers are as much a part of ~~the~~ classroom^s as blackboards, where highly trained teachers demand peak performance from our children. And above all, I see an America in the Year 2000 where every 8-year-old can point to a book and say: "I read it myself."

Feb Over the past two years, we stopped budget cuts that would cripple our initiatives to double the size of Head Start, to increase remedial reading and math, and to double the number of anti-drug counseling programs in our schools.

In the Year 2000, I see an America where every third grader can read and write. Today, 40% of our children cannot read or write by the 3rd grade. Some learn late; some never really learn at all. We must set our children free.

I am proposing a bold literacy program: To hire 50,000 reading specialists for our schools where too many students read below grade level. They will recruit and train volunteers to create an education army of 1 million people to teach our children to read.

also We will provide funds to keep schools open, from early in the morning until early at night, so young people can stay off the street and develop the skills to live good lives.

He said when

g In the Year 2000, a diploma will mean something: That this child, educated anywhere in this country, has attained a satisfactory level of knowledge and reading and math skills. And a high-school diploma will proclaim to the world: this child has earned it.

We will ask every state to compose rigorous achievement tests. We will expect that state to make passing that test a precondition of graduating elementary school, middle school, or high school. We will challenge states to reward good teachers and remove those who don't measure up. And where schools have failed, we will help parents come together to set up charter schools to provide quality education to their children. Parents do deserve the choice to send their children to the best public school their communities can create.

*Andy
in red* In the Year 2000, I see America's schools rebuilt, modernized, wired for computers and prepared to cope with the rapidly increasing enrollments. The students who start first grade next week will be the largest class in our nation's history. I propose federal assistance to enable localities to increase school construction by at least 25%. We cannot ask our children to learn in a landscape of peeling paint and broken glass.

Computers are remaking our world. When this convention gathered four years ago, there was no such thing as a "web page" on the Internet. Today, even Socks, my cat, has one. Our mission is simple and imperative: We will connect every single classroom and library in America to the world wide web of computers, information and knowledge by the Year 2000.

I see an America in the Year 2000 where we all share in the benefits of a growing economy, where more and more of us go to college. I see an America where the budget deficit is approaching zero -- but our budget reflects our values. I see an America where new opportunity opens up to our people, enabling us all to seize this age of possibility.

If we had to ask one question that would determine a person's future economic well-being, ^{it would be about} ~~the answer is~~ not gender, or race -- it is, simply, "did you go to college?" Women earn less than men, but they are gaining; minorities earn less than whites, but they are gaining; those who have not been to college earn less than those who have, and they are falling farther and farther behind.

By the Year 2000, every American high school graduate who wants to go to college must have the opportunity to do so. ^{Our distaste program, started & funded over 100 years ago} We have reduced interest on student loans. We have ^{expanded, have cut the costs & improved the options for} expanded Pell Grant scholarships. And we have offered, through Americorps, the chance ^{for} to earn your way through college by serving your community.

13+14th grade universal

In the next four years, we will pass a tax cut to make most community colleges free, and all college more affordable. If you go to college, we will give you a \$1500 a year tax credit for the first two years, and a \$10,000 tax deduction thereafter. And if, you return to college to advance your skills, your tuition will be covered by this tax cut. ~~We will pay for it by closing tax loopholes for large multinational corporations.~~ We will say to Americans: Do the work, expand your skills, and we will help you pay for it. And Americans will say: Give

us the tools to succeed, and we'll get the job done.

I see an America in the Year 2000 where parents can save for their child's college. I am proposing an expanded IRA of \$2000 for each child, which parents may save each year tax-free. This tax cut, too, is fully paid for by spending cuts. When the day comes that their child uses these tax free savings and the tax free interest to pay tuition, those payments themselves will be tax free. ^{up to 10,000 a yr. ~~for each child~~ So} We will reform the tax code to make sure that for middle income Americans, the money that pays for school is never, ever taxed.

Full Free [I see an America in the Year 2000 where work pays. Where, when you work at a job, you don't come home at night to a family in poverty. Last week I was very proud to sign an increase in the minimum wage. And we have expanded and protected from budget cuts the Earned Income Tax Credit, cutting the taxes of 15 million working families. When this tax cut is fully in place, going to work will mean the end of poverty.

But most important of all, I see an America by the Year 2000 in which those who have been forced to the bottom, left to a lifetime of welfare dependency are finally climbing up.

I signed last week as much a compact as a law. Those on welfare now have the responsibility to move to work. But we, who are not on welfare, have the responsibility to keep a reciprocal promise: to provide them with the opportunity -- the daycare, the education,

and, most of all, the jobs they need.

This is the most important compact of our time. If we succeed in providing work, dignity, and the chance for advancement to those who now languish on welfare, we can end the permanent underclass, exiled, forgotten, and cast out by society.

This compact is our last, best hope to succeed where we have failed before. If we fall short, we will have lost another last best hope -- for true national unity. I will honor this compact with a strategy to create one million jobs for those now on welfare.

1st → Every \$10000 made all or pt of what now will count as a huge subsidy for up to 1 yr

First, we will give every business a \$2100 tax credit for every person hired who is on welfare, provided that person stays on the job for a year. This is a good deal for the workers, it's a good deal for the businesses, and it's a good deal for America.

*Assume
give good reason
welfare*

- Second, the same job placement firms that help millions of Americans find better jobs should help welfare recipients find their first job. To that end, we will pay them \$1500 for every welfare recipient they place in a job, and who stays there for a year.

Third, we will create jobs to put our people to work. Building homes. Repairing schools. Renovating parks. Fixing the streets. Cleaning up pollution. Making their communities shine again. We will expand child care and hire welfare mothers to help staff them.

Fourth, we will help free enterprise take root in the inner city, irrigating the economy with capital from an expanded network of community development banks such as the South Shore Bank here in Chicago. There is no capitalism where there is no capital -- and we must enable it to thrive everywhere in America.

I see an America in the Year 2000 where we cut taxes wisely to help America grow. I propose a limited tax cut of \$110 billion targeted at helping people have the tools they need to make the most of their own lives. We will cut taxes for the family of the child going to college . . . we will cut taxes for the worker who returns to college . . . we will cut taxes for the family saving to buy a home . . . and for the family selling a home to move up. We will cut taxes for middle income families trying to raise their children. We will cut taxes for working families to keep them out of poverty. We will target our tax cuts where they can do the most good.

~~The era of big government is indeed over. We must cut taxes, and we must let people keep more of their own money.~~

But have we learned nothing from our own recent history? In the 1980s, we piled up deficits through massive tax cuts, which laid the basis for the icy grip of the recession four years ago. For four years, we have struggled, day in and day out -- sacrificed and saved -- to bring this deficit down. Are we now to make the same mistake again? To raise interest rates again? To stop economic growth again? To court recession again? To follow the same pied

PHOTOCOPY
WJC HANDWRITING

pipers over the same cliff? My answer is simple: No way.

And are we to forget the even more recent past -- when there were those who sought a massive tax cut we could not afford, and tried to pay for it with harsh cuts in crucial areas. Last year and this year, I rejected these massive cuts. I rejected them.

Let me make one thing clear: As long as I am President, I will never allow Congress to use the threat of government shutdown to blackmail the American people into accepting deep, devastating cuts -- in education . . . the environment . . . Medicaid . . . or Medicare.

Are we now again to invite cuts of this magnitude -- or even greater, crueler cuts, -- to pay for a huge across-the-board tax cut? No way.

We have a better plan. Cut taxes by \$110 billion, not by \$550 billion. Pay for them with reasonable spending cuts, not with borrowed money -- or by eviscerating Medicare, Medicaid, education and the environment. And target the tax cuts where they will do real things to help real people to help our nation grow: *MC, EO, Jobs for us, many jobs, etc in various isolated areas.*

None of these tax cuts or other initiatives must divert us from the path to a balanced budget. Every tax cut and every initiative will be paid for by specific spending cuts. We have already reduced the federal payroll by 250,000 employees; we will reduce it by another ~~100,000~~ *We want 200 programs reduced by 16,000 jobs - Union 20 more* 100,000. We will close loopholes for multinational corporations and on corporate welfare.

We cannot turn from the path of fiscal discipline that has ^{Wanted to see really be. to} gotten us moving again.
~~be more pro & less million of people and how to afford housing can, a~~

I see an America in the Year 2000 where crime is becoming the exception, not the rule. I see an America where children will not find it easier to buy a gun than a beer, where the voices of crime victims will finally be heard in our courtrooms, where the gangs that once ran wild in our neighborhoods have been chased-down, locked-up, and kicked-out, ^{where young people who are running themselves stay away from}
~~drug & gangs be. we give them something to say for to~~

~~For a long time, Americans thought there was nothing we could do about crime. We~~
~~proved them wrong.~~ But we cannot go into the 21st Century vital and strong if children are still killing children . . . if children's lives are shattered by violence at home or in the schoolyard . . . if a generation of young people is left to raise itself alone on the streets . . .
^{if anyone is going down among young people but up among children}

We took on the Washington gun lobby and their allies in Congress, banning 19 deadly assault weapons, and passing the Brady Bill. No hunter has been denied his gun -- but 60,000 felons, fugitives and stalkers have been denied theirs. Tonight, I propose new steps to curb violence and fight crime.

Too many women and too many children live in mortal fear of domestic violence -- and each year, there are 150,000 acts (ck) of domestic violence involving a gun. [Sarah Brady thank you?] We must extend the Brady Bill to say: if you have a record of violence against your own family, you cannot buy a gun. If we do this, four years from now

thousands of women who would have lost their lives to domestic violence will be alive.

Even as we punish crime, we must prevent it before it happens. We expect criminals to serve their time. Parole is a conditional privilege. We expect parolees to obey the law and turn their lives around. If they turn the wrong way and slip back onto drugs, chances are they will soon be committing crimes. So I call upon every state to test parolees for drugs, and to lock up -- for the balance of their sentence -- those who test positive. We say to parolees: if you go back on drugs, you are going back to jail. (★?)

(?) Too many kids have guns. I propose a federal law making it a crime for anyone under 21 to own a handgun -- or for anyone to sell a handgun to anyone under 21. This crime will be punishable by 5 years in prison. I see an America where a child's finger on the trigger of a handgun is an abomination.

We must ban the cop-killer bullets that are designed with one purpose in mind: to kill police. ~~that~~ ^{that} bullet ^{can} cut through ^{police officer's} Kevlar vest like ^{hot} a knife through butter, ~~then it~~ has no place on our streets.

And by the Year 2000, our Constitution ought to protect victims of crime -- not just criminals. Victims of crime should have the right to be heard at trial, at sentencing, or at a parole hearing. And they should be warned when their assailant leaves prison. ^{Blow it in any way} ~~To safeguard~~ ^{to guarantee these rights} I support a Constitutional Amendment to guarantee victims rights.

By the Year 2000, I want teenage gangs in full retreat. To win this victory, we will use our most potent legal tool -- the anti-racketeering RICO statute. RICO brought the mob to its knees. RICO helped smash the Medellin drug cartel. Under this powerful law, we will wiretap, infiltrate, and ~~electronically~~ ^{legally} track every gang member. And when we have enough evidence, we will close in to bring them to justice.

By the Year 2000, I see drug use among our teenagers coming down. Recently, we have been afflicted by yet another rise in teen drug use. To fight this, we have doubled funding for school anti-drug programs, stiffened penalties for drug dealers, and imposed the death penalty for drug kingpins. [drug program & McCaffrey mention to come]

I want an America in the year 2000 where every family is safe from cancer-causing chemicals in the water they drink, in the food they eat, and in our rivers and streams.

This month, I signed legislation to remove cancer causing pesticides from our fruits and vegetables. This month, I signed a new program to rid drinking water of poisons that threaten the health of entire cities. Three years ago in Milwaukee, poisonous drinking water killed 100 people. That must not happen again.

Last month, I issued new regulations dramatically upgrading our meat and poultry inspections to take full advantage of modern technology. We saved Yellowstone from the ravages of mining, the priceless Arctic Refuge from oil drilling, and the Everglades from out-

my area where they're getting
going from 15 to 20. This is a
these are the same way too &
not. This is a big
Not even if you
Bull's eye is a big
big in the world
Don't know as
that's
Painful to
me - my
nearly killed
my brother when
he was a young man
& I hate them!
Appar. they're all but
if you're not
easy.

of-control development.

We have cleaned up more toxic waste sites in the past two years than in the previous 12 combined. In the next four years, we will clean up ^{many} 2/3 of the toxic waste sites in the country. After years and, in some cases, decades on the Superfund list, these sites will be clean.

By the Year 2000, we will pass a law giving every family in every community the right to know exactly which toxic chemicals are being transported through their streets or stored in their neighborhood.

We will make it a crime to attempt to pollute. We will establish an environmental crimes division in the FBI, and catch polluters before they can poison our land.

No longer will environmental criminals be able to use the courts to delay justice. Under a new law, we will be able to go to court as soon as we find pollution, and place a lien on the property of the polluter until he pays to clean up the mess he has made.

By the Year 2000, we will not only treat cancer in our hospitals; we will stop the chemicals that cause it from entering our water and on our land.

I see an America in the Year 2000 that remains the world's greatest force for

peace and freedom. I see an America that is secure and strong. And I see an America that embraces its responsibility to do what no other nation can do as well -- to advance progress around the world. I see an America which is winning the war against terror, by standing against the reckless rogue states, like Iran and Libya -- stopping them from weaving their dangerous web of terrorism and international crime.

We have helped bring freedom to South Africa, democracy to Haiti, and peace to Bosnia. We have frozen North Korea's nuclear program under international supervision. And we have stopped Iraq from continued lawlessness, and ~~made it bow to the justice of world~~
*law. We have helped bring peace in ME and supported the peace process
man in US, Ben, Clinton, Bush*

By the Year 2000, I see a world where no nuclear weapon is ever exploded. We will sign, ratify and enforce a total ban on nuclear testing.

By the Year 2000, we will ratify the chemical weapons convention, banishing poison gas from this earth.

There are now no Russian missiles pointed at our cities or our children. Ukraine, Belarus, and Kazakhstan are giving up the nuclear weapons left on their land when the Soviet Union dissolved. By the Year 2000, we will enforce the START II treaty to slash our nuclear arsenals in the United States and Russia by two thirds from their Cold War peak.

Nothing in our lifetimes was more heartening than when the people of Eastern and Central Europe rose up to throw off the yoke of Communism. We have helped democracy grow in those countries. We have encouraged economic and political reform in Russia. By the Year 2000, I see a world in which the integrity, and the freedom, of Eastern Europe is protected by NATO guarantees -- and where the global commitment to reform in Russia has helped that nation thrive in a peaceful and democratic global community.

We will strike hammer blows at the international forces of terrorism. Our strategy has three parts. First, we must rally the world community to stand with us. This month, I signed a law imposing harsh sanctions on any foreign company that invests in key sectors of the Iranian or Libyan economy. *from a long act, this is the part we're going to focus on* We will deny these companies loans from American banks, contracts with the American government, or even the personal right to travel to America's shores.

Second, we will toughen enforcement and offer stern punishment here at home. By the Year 2000, through a new international crime control act that I will propose, we will crack down on money laundering by criminals and terrorists, expand our powers to extradite them to our justice, and lengthen our reach in prosecuting and punishing those who commit violent crimes against Americans abroad.

When a bomb explodes in America today, we must rely on old police methods to find the culprit. I demand that Congress pass a law adding chemical markers called taggants to

the gunpowder used in bombs, so we may use modern technology to fight modern terror.

When a terrorist uses a pay telephone or a motel phone to plot a bombing, we cannot tap his conversation. We cannot protect our citizens by anticipating his actions. I demand that Congress allow us to save lives by tapping all the phones that a terrorist uses.

Third, we will tighten security on our airplanes and our airports. We are installing the most sophisticated and sensitive bomb detection equipment in every airport. And we are searching every plane flying to or from America -- every flight, every cargo hold, every cabin, every time.

There are those who would doubt our military. But it is the best trained, best equipped, in the world. By the Year 2000, we will have increased weapon modernization by 40%. We are putting in place a sensible defense against missiles. But we will not -- not now, and not by the Year 2000 -- squander \$60 billion on an unproven, ineffective Star Wars program that could be obsolete tomorrow.

America is the indispensable nation. Not for our strength, though we are strong; not for our wealth, though wealthy we are; but for our sense of justice and fairness. We are the one nation others trust. The one nation that has ever led the world by moral example and the power of ideas.

There are times when America, and only America, can make the difference between war and peace, freedom and repression, life and death. We cannot save all the world's children -- but we can save some. We cannot become the world's policeman -- but where our values, and our interests, are at stake, we must act. We must lead.

If ever we grow weary and doubtful, we should remember how the rest of the world sees us. America stands as a beacon of freedom, opportunity, and peace across the globe. We showed that in our great Atlanta Olympics this summer. And I heard it, again and again, in my visits with Olympic athletes from other lands: from the Mideast, to South Africa, from the former Soviet Republics to Bosnia and Northern Ireland.

When I visited Northern Ireland last year, the ^{Wonderful} poet Seamus Heaney wrote out a ~~wonderful~~ passage ~~from one of his plays~~, which reads:

History says, *Don't hope*

On this side of the grave.

But then, once in a lifetime

The longed-for tidal wave

Of justice can rise up,

And hope and history rhyme.

Tonight, as we approach the Year 2000, I see America's new history ahead. Four

years ago, our belief in a place called hope drove us forward. For four years, America and all our people have summoned a new faith in ourselves. And now, for four years, America must move with confidence and clarity to the Year 2000 -- together.

My fellow Americans, we have worked hard and long to bring our country to this point. If we have our convictions and we stand for them -- if we hold out our hands in cooperation, but always stand up for what we know is right -- this country's future will be even brighter than its brilliant past. It is our responsibility to make that happen.

To meet our challenges, to become the nation we can become, and to honor the values that have always kept us strong, I accept your nomination for President of the United States.

And let it end tonight where it began for every one of us, and where it will begin anew for every generation to come. Let us all say: we still believe in a place called America.

community development banks -- like South Shore here in Chicago -- to help start small businesses; let's clean up toxic waste sites so that free enterprise can take root.

A few miles from this hall, young people are growing up in a Chicago neighborhood where only a third of the adults go to work every day. The rest are on welfare or out of work or gave up a long time ago. There are millions more like them, from the Mississippi Delta to South Central LA. If we don't meet this challenge, those young people may never know the thrill of that first paycheck, the challenge of starting a business, or the pride of following in a parent's footsteps.

Every single American watching tonight who has ever said a disparaging word about the welfare system needs to say to themselves, "That's gone. Now, what is my responsibility to make it better?" Every business person who has had a beef with welfare should look for ways to hire and train someone who was on welfare.

Let every American say tonight: We must end the permanent underclass -- isolated, forgotten, and exiled from the promise of America. In the 21st Century, we will not have a single person to waste.

8/28/96 12:45 am

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN

9/9/96

**PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON
ACCEPTANCE SPEECH
DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL CONVENTION
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS
August 29, 1996**

Mr. Chairman, Mr. Vice-President, fellow Democrats, my fellow Americans:

Let me begin by saluting a man who is my strong partner and close friend, with whom I have had the privilege of working for the past four years, and with whom I expect to work for four more years -- the Vice-President of the United States of America, Al Gore.

Tonight I thank Chicago, city of the big shoulders and a great heart. And thank you, Chicago, for giving me the love of my life -- my wife, Hillary.

Four years ago, you honored me with your nomination to the highest office in the land. We set out to fulfill our vision -- to offer opportunity to all, to demand responsibility from all, and to build a new American community. That night, in New York, together we made clear that we still believed in that most American of all places, a place called Hope.

Four years ago, we had to begin our journey with hope. Our people were losing heart and our most important resource: our belief in our ability to move forward -- together. Crime seemed on an inevitable climb. Welfare seemed to be an impenetrable system of dependence. The budget

deficit seemed a permanent shackle on our economic dreams. A new global economy seemed a threat to our dreams, not the gateway to a new age of possibility for all of our hardworking people.

1/4 per / full
school shed

These unsolved problems seemed to open wounds in our generous American soul. A nation built on equality found racial division on the rise. A nation built on the promise of progress found its path blocked; hardworking Americans replaced the hope of moving higher with resentment of those stuck below. And too many politicians climbed the ladder of these resentments to higher office. They used these problems as issues to be exploited, not challenges to be met. When the times demanded that we join hands, they pointed fingers.

My fellow Americans, faith begins with hope. And, bit by powerful bit, in the last four years, we have seen our hope become our confidence, and our confidence become a new faith in ourselves as a nation, a new faith in America.

Four years ago, I was determined to offer a leadership that would tell America not "who to blame," but "what to do." ^{what to do about} We have stepped up to the tough issues, the real problems ^{we face} that affect ~~our people in their~~ ^{the real opportunities we have} daily lives. We have made progress on the straightforward vision we set forth to fulfill: To keep the American dream alive for all our people. To remain the world's strongest force for peace and freedom. And to come together as a nation around our fundamental values.

We created economic opportunity to restore the American Dream. 10 million new jobs.

The lowest combined rates of inflation and unemployment and montages in 30 years. Wages rising again. And last week, I signed legislation raising the minimum wage, moving people from welfare to work, and assuring that when Americans change jobs, they can take their health insurance with them.

With the help of the Vice-President, we cut 250,000 jobs from the federal workforce; now our government is the smallest -- and the most efficient -- it has been since John F. Kennedy was President. (And, today the deficit that was strangling our progress is 60% smaller than four years ago. *Barack Obama*)

We began to put 100,000 more police on the streets; we toughened penalties; we stopped felons and fugitives from buying handguns; we banned assault rifles. For four years now, the crime rate has dropped. Now even the juvenile murder rate is down.

We worked with states to launch dozens of experiments to replace welfare with work. Because of this quiet revolution, 1.6 million fewer people are on welfare than on the day I took office.

We have kept America strong around the world. Tonight, no one, anywhere on this planet -- from Russia, to Bosnia, to the Middle East -- doubts that America is the strongest force for peace and freedom and prosperity in the world.

PHOTOCOPY
WJC HANDWRITING

And most important, we are coming together to meet our challenges and protect our

values, united, as one America. That is why I have spoken out over these months, to show how

we can work to meet the challenges in our people's lives and to protect the values that have

always made us strong -- community by community, school by school, block by block.

So much has been done to prep. for 21st cent compared to 4
yrs ago → more opp, more respon, ~~ambition~~ & staying. But there is more to do.

The era of big government is over. But we cannot go back to an era of fend for yourself.

We can have a role to play in ~~the~~ our future, in U.S. govt

~~We need a government that is leaner and more efficient -- but one that is strong enough to help~~

~~The ^{live} ~~water~~ ~~substance~~ ~~that~~ they~~ can connect

people ~~want~~ to give them the tools to make the most of their God given potential.

~~10m~~ 10m j. 12m from w. 15m tax cut. Record # new bees, all slight fat cut.
2m 8 bees. — HDS. — 16m w. 34 more cl. sup. cut. 50m clean an.
4m 10m clean an.

Tonight, we embark again on a great debate about our country's direction. The issue in this election is this: What kind of country will we build for the Year 2000? How will we go into the 21st Century? What will America look like at the dawn of the next century? What will she look like when our children and our grandchildren are our age?

+716

So let me make clear that Bob Dole and Jack Kemp -- and Ross Perot -- are men who love our country and have served it with distinction. Let us honor their service, and our fellow citizens, by making this a campaign of ideas, not insults. Let us clearly state the differences in our records and our vision for the future, but let us not demean each other, our parties, or our devotion to America. I say to all of you: This must be a campaign that brings us together -- and takes us into the future.

The past, even ^{too} my record, even the record of our opponents, only matter as guides to the

future. I love and revere the history of America as much as any other President who has ever served. I am determined to take our best traditions into the future. But with all respect, we do not need to build a bridge to the past -- we need to build a bridge to the future.

A century ago, our grandparents built a bridge between eras -- and the Progressive Era of Theodore Roosevelt and Woodrow Wilson millions of Americans cross into the industrial age and the new century. Progressive Era. We have met so many of the challenges of this century -- and our country is moving forward, confident and strong.

But must make sure that every American can reap the rewards of this new era. We know that there are still people who are not sharing in all the bounty of this new age of possibility. And this country will not be all it can be if we do not find a way to help everyone move confidently, forward, together. We must make sure that America is ready for the stiff challenges and remarkable opportunities of our new century.

So tonight I will outline a new progressive agenda for reform in America -- an agenda for action that will allow us to meet our challenges, protect our values and prepare this country for the 21st Century. We must help every parent to raise their child. We must help every young person and working person get the education and training they need. We must make families feel safe again on the streets. We must finally break the cycle of poverty and dependency that grips our cities. We must protect our environment for generations to come. We must keep America the strongest nation on earth. We must do all these things, and in so doing we will

improve every aspect of daily life as we move forward to the new century.

I believe, more deeply than ever before, that the way we will move forward confident and strong into this new era is by holding fast to our enduring values. Four years ago, I told you and the American people what guided me: We must offer opportunity to all ... demand responsibility from all ... and come together as a community. That is America's basic bargain. It has kept us strong and brought us this far. And it is how we will move forward, confident and vital, into the new century.

Then, when our time here is over, we will be able to watch the sun go down, and say, truly, we have prepared our children for the dawn.

OPPORTUNITY

I want America to build a bridge to the Year 2000 in which we expand opportunity through education: where computers are as much a part of the classroom as blackboards, where highly trained teachers demand peak performance from our children, where every 8-year-old can point to a book and say: "I read it myself."

And above all, over the past half century, the most important thing we have done to extend opportunity is to make real the dream of college for more and more Americans. In the remaining years of this century, the single most important thing we can do is to make college available to every single American who wants it.

We must make at least two years of college as universal as a high school education is today. And we should use targeted tax cuts to do it.

I propose giving every person in America a \$1500-a-year tuition tax credit -- a “Hope Scholarship” for the first two years of college, which will make the typical community college free. Every family ought to be able to deduct the cost of college tuition up to \$10,000 per year. Every parent ought to be able to save money for college every year in a tax free IRA. Middle income Americans should not have to pay a nickel of taxes on the money they spend for college.

The tax cuts in my plan are fully paid for, with specific budget cuts and loophole closings. No tax cuts will do more than to expand opportunity and help the economy to grow than tax cuts for education.

In the new economy, education can’t stop on graduation day. That is why I have proposed a new GI Bill for America’s workers -- a \$2600 grant for all workers who need one, to get training, skills, all the tools they need to make the most of their own lives.

We must demand excellence at every level -- to insist that students learn the old basics we learned, and the new basics they need.

Tonight, let us set a clear national goal: every child should be able to read on their own by the 3rd grade. When 40% of 8 year olds cannot read as well as they should, we must do better. I

want to send 30,000 reading specialists to mobilize a volunteer army of 1 million tutors -- and they, together, will teach our children to read. Let me say to parents: every single tired night you spend reading a book to your child is a night well worth it. I know it was for Hillary and me when it came to Chelsea. Literacy is freedom -- we must set our children free.

We must insist that our students take tough tests as they move from level to level; reward good teachers and remove those who don't measure up; give parents the choice of which public school to send their children; keep schools open late so young people can stay off the street.

We need schools that will take our children into the new century -- rebuilt and modernized, with an unprecedented commitment from the national government to increase school construction . . . and with every single library and classroom in America connected to the information superhighway by the Year 2000.

If we do these things, every 8 year old will be able to read . . . every 12 year old will be able to log on to the internet . . . every 18 year old will be able to go to college . . . and America will have the knowledge they need to cross the bridge to the future.

Economy/budget

I want to build a bridge to the Year 2000 in which we preserve the legacy of opportunity of this generation for the next, by balancing our budget in a way that protects

our values, and ensures that every family will be able to hold onto the value of their single most important asset -- their home.

Tonight, let us proclaim to the American people: We will balance the budget. And let us also proclaim: we will do it in a way that preserves Medicare, Medicaid, education and the environment.

Last year, the Republican Congress sent me a plan that violated our values. I vetoed their budget last year; I was proud to do it; and if I have to, I will do it again.

Let me be clear: As long as I am President, I will never allow cuts that devastate education for our children, pollute our environment, gut health care under Medicaid, or violate our duty to our parents under Medicare. Never.

And as long as I am President, I will never allow Congress to use the blackmail threat of a government shutdown to try and break the will of the American people into supporting deep cuts in Medicare, Medicaid, education or the environment.

Our opponents in the other party have always complained that government is too big. But we, the Democrats, reduced the government to its smallest size since John Kennedy was President. The federal employees we now have are more productive than ever . . . and these public servants do not deserve a government shutdown.

I have proposed a plan to balance the budget through real, certified cuts in government and waste. My plan invests in education and our people. And it gives Americans tax cuts that will help our country grow.

Tonight, I propose that we pass a major new targeted tax cut that will safeguard the value of the biggest single asset of American families -- their homes. Homeowners should be allowed to sell their homes without paying a capital gains tax. And we should expand IRAs so people can save tax free to buy a home. I want every American to be able to hear those beautiful words: Welcome home.

Every tax cut I call for tonight is targeted, responsible, and paid for within the balanced budget. My tax cuts won't undermine the economy -- they will help it. We should cut taxes for the family of the child going to college . . . for the worker who returns to college . . . for the family saving to buy a home -- or sell a home . . . for middle income families trying to raise their children. That's the right way to cut taxes.

Our opponents have put forward a very different plan -- a risky \$550 billion tax scheme that we cannot afford, and that would only be paid for with devastating cuts.

This tax scheme will explode the deficit . . . spike interest rates -- by 2% -- and require huge cuts in the very investments that will help our economy grow. Our opponents are asking us

to accept slower growth, fewer jobs, a more divided America, and a compromised future -- for the sake of a theory we know won't work.

And if you thought last year's cuts were bad, these will be much, much worse.

Do we really want to make the same mistake again? To raise interest rates again? To stop economic growth again? To court recession again? To follow the same pied pipers over the same cliff? My answer is simple: No way.

We have an obligation to our children: we must not leave them a crushing legacy of debt. We must leave them a legacy of opportunity. So this is one area where I respectfully disagree with my opponent: We should not bet the farm . . . and we certainly shouldn't bet the country.

RESPONSIBILITY

Opportunity alone is not enough. We must demand that every American take personal responsibility for themselves, their families and their country.

Welfare

I want America to build a bridge to the Year 2000 in which we as a nation take responsibility to make sure that the boarded up storefronts of our inner-city are finally open for business -- in which every single child can look out the window in the morning and

see a whole community getting up and going to work.

A few miles from this hall, young people are growing up in a neighborhood where only a third of the adults go to work every day. The rest are on welfare or out of work or gave up a long time ago. There are millions more like them, from the Mississippi Delta to South Central LA. We want these young people to know the thrill of that first paycheck, the challenge of starting a business, the pride of following in a parent's footsteps.

The welfare reform law I signed last week is a chance for America to have a new beginning -- to strike a new social bargain with the poor. We have to take our responsibility -- so they can take theirs. We are finally requiring everyone who can work, to go to work -- now we have a responsibility to make sure there are jobs to go to. We have a moral obligation to bring the dignity of work and the liberating power of free enterprise to our nation's forgotten inner-cities.

Tonight, I want to propose a plan to build on this new beginning, that will move 1 million welfare recipients into jobs that last.

The law I signed has given states the biggest job creation tool in history. From now on, any state can take the money now spent on welfare, and use it to help businesses hire people off welfare and train them for jobs. I challenge every state to take us up on this offer.

We should give businesses a tax credit for every person they hire off welfare and keep in a job for 9 months. We should offer job placement firms a \$3000 bonus for every welfare recipient they place in a job if the worker stays in the job. We should help communities to put welfare recipients to work -- repairing schools, starting child care centers, making their neighborhoods shine again.

We spend enormous time opening markets for America around the world, and we should. But let's never forget: The greatest untapped market for America . . . is right here in America. So let's expand our Empowerment Zones that draw businesses into poor neighborhoods; let's have more community development banks -- like South Shore here in Chicago -- to help start small businesses; let's clean up urban toxic waste sites so that free enterprise can take root.

Every single American watching tonight who has ever said a disparaging word about the welfare system should say: "That's gone. Now, what is my responsibility to make it better?" Every business person who has had a beef with welfare should look for ways to hire and train someone who was on welfare.

Let me tell you who this is all about. A decade ago, a woman named Lillie Hardin moved from welfare to work with the help of a program I started in my home state. I asked her, "What is the best thing about being off of welfare?" She told me: "The best thing about being off welfare is that when my boy goes to school, and they ask him, 'What does your momma do?' he has an answer." Today, Lillie Hardin works in a grocery store in Little Rock. One daughter is an

honors student. One is a physical therapist. Her oldest son has a job and a family. And her other son is going to college.

I want every family to have the opportunity and to take the responsibility that Lillie Hardin and her family have. And I want every person in America to pledge tonight: We will end the permanent underclass -- isolated, forgotten, and exiled from the promise of America. In the 21st Century, we will not have a single person to waste.

Crime

I want America to build a bridge to the Year 2000 where our children are not killing children . . . where our children's lives are not shattered by violence at home or in the schoolyard . . . where a generation of young people is not left to raise itself alone on the streets.

We are putting 100,000 police on the street . . . making three-strikes-and-you're out the law of the land . . . and taking deadly assault weapons off the street . . . but the only way to truly turn back crime is for every American to learn right from wrong and take personal responsibility to be a good citizen.

We ask the police to keep us safe. We must do our part to keep them safe. We must ban cop-killer bullets -- designed for one reason: to kill police. They have no place on America's

streets.

We all owe a great debt to Sarah and Jim Brady for their courage. We must extend the Brady Bill to say: anyone with a record of violence against their spouse or child should not own a gun.

We should pass a victims' rights Constitutional Amendment because victims deserve to be heard -- and need to know when an assailant is released.

We have made so much progress; even crime among young people is down. So it is very, very painful to me that drug use among young people is up. Drugs nearly killed my brother when he was a young man -- and I hate them.

We must break the cycle of drugs and crime. General Barry McCaffrey, a four star general who led our fight against drugs in Latin America, now leads our crusade against drugs -- stopping drugs at our borders, cracking down on those who sell them, and calling on America to turn our children away from drugs and gangs.

Time and again, I have asked Congress for more resources to fight drugs, but the leaders of this Congress have just said no. Tonight, I ask again. I challenge Congress, when they return next week, to pass each and every anti-drug program I have submitted, and that America needs.

Parolees who go back on drugs should go back to jail.

And never forget: Parents have a responsibility to teach their children this truth: Drugs are deadly, drugs are wrong, drugs may cost you your life.

We and we must put a stop to the violence of teen gangs. We used the anti-racketeering laws to put the leaders of the Mob away. The new crime organizations that are terrorizing our children and taking over our streets are the gangs. Now we will use the anti-racketeering law to break the back of the gangs.

[Dimitrios Theofanis story -- "make my son free"]

My fellow Americans, in the 21st Century, we must make all of our children free -- free of the vise-like grip of guns, gangs and drugs, free to build lives of hope.

COMMUNITY

Perhaps the most important thing we can do as a country is to continue to come together, in spite of all of our differences, as one community, one America, concerned about our future.

We begin with the family. You can't have a strong country, you can't have strong values, unless you have strong families.

The first person to teach me that was here with us four years ago. I miss my mother very much. And I will never forget what she gave me. She worked long hours as a nurse; she came home, bone tired, and worked longer hours as a mother. From her, I learned how deeply a parent wants to succeed at work and at home. And from her, I learned that you can't do it alone. We as a community -- neighbors, friends, all Americans working together -- have a duty to pull together.

I want to build an America for the Year 2000 where we cherish all our children, and strengthen our families. Where parents have our help protecting their children from outside influences, and giving their children something as simple, and precious as their time.

We must do nothing less than revolutionize the relationship between work and any worker who is unemployed. A parent may be without a job; but no child should be without a doctor.

We should make it illegal for HMOs to stop their doctors from telling patients the best treatment, not just the cheapest. We should require insurance companies to pay for mothers to stay at least 48 hours in the hospital after giving birth. The best health care system in the world should treat patients right.

And we must do more, as a community, to make sure that every child gets the love and

1000 of them will die early as a result. And I pledge to America's parents: as long as I am President we will protect our children from tobacco.

We are making sure that parents will have the V-chip, that TV shows will soon be rated for content, and that there will be 3 hours of quality children's programming every week on every network.

We should build a bridge to an America for the Year 2000 where every parent knows that their child has health insurance. The Kennedy-Kassebaum law -- the most significant health insurance reform in a generation -- says every American will be able to keep their health insurance coverage when they change jobs -- even if a family member is sick. Tonight we must spell out how we take the next steps.

In the next four years, we must extend paid health insurance for six months to any worker who is unemployed. A parent may be without a job; but no child should be without a doctor.

We should make it illegal for HMOs to stop their doctors from telling patients the best treatment, not just the cheapest. We should require insurance companies to pay for mothers to stay at least 48 hours in the hospital after giving birth. The best health care system in the world should treat patients right.

And we must do more, as a community, to make sure that every child gets the love and

support of her parents.

In four years, we have brought the rate of teen pregnancy down. In the next four years, a national campaign against teen pregnancy should help us bring it down more.

In just four years, we have increased child support collections by 40%. In the next four years, we must put the IRS to work collecting overdue child support.

Unlike our opponents, we do not whisper our position on choice, we proclaim it: abortion should be safe, legal and rare. This decision must be left to a woman, her conscience, and her God. We respect the individual conscience of every American on this issue.

Whatever your views on this difficult issue, let us agree on this: We should make adoption more and more available. Last week, I signed a bill to provide a \$5000 tax credit -- again, fully paid for -- to help families adopt children and put an end to racial preferences in adoption.

Environment

As we do all these things to help give our children stronger lives, we must pass on to future generations the earth that God gave us.

We are making our food safer from pesticides and protecting our drinking water from poisons . . . we dramatically upgraded meat and poultry inspection . . . we saved Yellowstone from the ravages of mining, the priceless Arctic Refuge from oil drilling, and the Everglades from out-of-control development.

And when the leaders of this Congress let a small army of lobbyists for polluters into the back rooms, to roll back 25 years of bipartisan environmental protections, I said no.

Now, I want to build an America for the Year 2000 where our families will know with certainty: that toxic waste is not seeping into the water they drink . . . if poisonous chemicals are being transported nearby . . . and that those who deliberately pollute will be forced to pay for the cleanup and pay for their crime.

Today, 12 million children live within 6 miles of a toxic waste dump. That's 12 million too many. We have cleaned up 197 toxic waste sites in the past two years -- more than in the previous 12 combined. Let us commit that by the end of this century, we will clean up 500 more -- 2/3 of all the toxic waste Superfund sites in the country.

We should give every family in every community the right to know exactly which toxic chemicals are being transported through their streets or stored in their neighborhood.

We should pass a new law that makes it a crime to attempt to pollute . . . and that lets us

freeze the assets of the polluter until he pays to clean up the mess he has made.

Foreign policy

America's strength as a community matters not only to us, but to the world. I want to lead an America that builds bridges to the world, where America remains the world's indispensable nation -- leading, as no other nation can, to keep our children safe from terrorz and weapons of mass destruction -- and to keep our world at peace.

I am determined that the peace signed on the White House lawn between Israelis and Palestinians must embrace more of Israel's neighbors . . . that the deep desire for peace I felt on the streets of Belfast will become real for all the people of Northern Ireland . . . and that, in the next four years, Cuba will finally join the family of democracies.

Nothing in our lifetimes has been more heartening than when the people of the former Soviet Union and Central Europe broke the grip of Communism. I want to continue our strong partnership with a democratic Russia. And by the Year 2000, we will bring some of Europe's new democracies into NATO -- so their freedom is never in doubt again.

America is once again the world's number one exporter. In the next four years, we must break down even more barriers. We must make it possible for the best workers and products in the world -- for America's workers and America's products -- to get the fair deal they deserve,

with the free trade they deserve. That's how we compete and win.

After 50 years of nuclear terror, there are now no Russian missiles pointed at our cities or our children. By the Year 2000, we must enforce and ratify those measures that will further reduce nuclear arsenals, banish poison gas from this earth, and ban nuclear tests once and for all time.

By the Year 2000, we will have increased funding to modernize our weapons by 40%. Our military remains the best trained, best equipped fighting force in the world -- and we must always keep it that way.

We are developing a sensible National Missile Defense. But we will not -- now or by the Year 2000 -- squander \$60 billion on an unproved, ineffective Star Wars program that could be obsolete tomorrow.

I want to build an America that is winning the war against terror, standing firm against reckless rogue states like Iran, Iraq and Libya and the forces of hatred here at home, building on our three-front anti-terrorism strategy.

First, we must rally the world in a coalition of zero tolerance for terrorism. This month, I signed a law imposing harsh sanctions on foreign companies that invest in key sectors of the Iranian or Libyan economy. They will pay the price for their actions . . . as long as Iran trains,

supports and protects terrorists . . . and as long as Libya refuses to give up the people who blew up Pan Am 103.

Second, we will give law enforcement the tools to take the fight to terrorists and criminals. We must pass a law to crack down on money laundering, and lengthen our reach in prosecuting and punishing those who commit violent crimes against Americans abroad. We must pass a law adding chemical markers to the gunpowder used in bombs, so that we can track down the bomb makers. And we must pass a law to extend the power to save lives by tapping all the phones that terrorists use.

Third, we will install the most sophisticated bomb detection equipment in our major airports and search every plane flying to or from America -- every flight, every cargo hold, every cabin, every time.

After the Cold War, there are times when on

Scripture passage:

Nehemiah 2:18 “‘Let us rise up and build.’ So they strengthened their hands for the good work.”

Possible ending

Sixty-eight nights from tonight, as the sun sets across our country, the American people will choose the last President of the 20th Century -- and the first President of the 21st.

We will leave behind so much from this century. But we will not leave behind our greatness: the sacrifice and the glory; the challenge and the promise. We are living the greatness of America. Our best days are not behind us. I believe with all my heart that America's greatest days are yet to be.

So, tonight, and for all the nights to come until our moment to decide, let us commit ourselves to going forward together, and then to the task of building -- with compassion, with vision, with wisdom. Remember the words of the Scripture: “Let us rise up and build” and strengthen our hands for the good work. Then, when our time here is over, we will watch the sun go down, and say, truly, we have prepared our children for the dawn.

My fellow Americans, I still believe in a place called Hope. And that place is called America.

To meet the challenges of our times, to preserve our oldest values, to lead America into a new century -- together, I proudly accept your nomination to be President of the United States of America. God Bless you all. And God bless the great people of the United States of America.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Don". The signature is stylized with a large, looping 'D' and a cursive 'on'.

August 28, 1996

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: MICHAEL WALDMAN

SUBJECT: REVISED DRAFT OF CONVENTION SPEECH

Here is the speech as it now stands, with the policy section (page 6-24) redrafted.

Again, the beginning section is unchanged, awaiting your revisions, and we have not put in an ending.

Waldman

✓ MB
✓ My
✓ Hiti
✓ Dorin