

RACE RELATIONS

INCLUDES:

The State of the Union Points
The Administration and African Americans
The Administration and Hispanics
The Administration and Asian and Pacific Americans
Team Harmony

TALKING POINTS STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS

January 26, 1998

THE PRESIDENT'S STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS IS A CONCRETE PLAN OF ACTION THAT IDENTIFIES OUR PRIORITIES AND APPROACHES TO KEY ISSUES

- **We have a unique moment in time to prepare America for the 21st Century.** Under President Clinton's leadership, America has achieved an unprecedented period of peace and prosperity:
 - the strongest economy in a generation;
 - the first balanced budget in a generation;
 - crime rates at their lowest levels in 24 years;
 - welfare rolls down by 3.8 million people;
 - unemployment at its lowest level in more than two decades;
 - deficit cut by more than 90 percent;
 - unrivaled world leadership.
- **This is an opportunity for action.** The President's State of the Union address will challenge us to use this unique moment in time as an opportunity to prepare for the next century. It builds on the new kind of government President Clinton is creating -- a leaner, more flexible government. One that does not try to do everything. One that gives Americans the tools and conditions needed to make the most of their own lives.
- **At the center of President Clinton's vision for a stronger America are three goals:**
 - an economy that honors opportunity;
 - a society rooted in responsibility;
 - and, a nation that lives as a community.

HERE IS HOW THESE GOALS FIT INTO PRESIDENT CLINTON'S VISION OF A STRONGER AMERICA IN THE 21ST CENTURY:

- **An Economy that offers more opportunity.** The President will outline a plan for building a stronger, more prosperous America. Central to his strategy is:
 - Driving the budget deficit down to 0. During the first 5 years -- by making tough choices and fiscally responsible policies -- President Clinton took the nation's budget deficit down from \$290 billion to \$23 billion. This year, President Clinton will make history and give the American people their first balanced budget in 30 years.
 - Committing any budget surplus first to Social Security. President Clinton is deeply committed to ensuring that Social Security remain a viable, effective program,

- Fighting juvenile crime and drugs. With murder, robbery, assault and burglary down all across the nation, President Clinton is calling for a special focus on addressing juvenile crime -- providing more resources to crack down on gangs, guns, and drugs. When coordinated with the support provided by the largest anti-drug budget in history and with the outstanding leadership General McCaffery brings to our national drug policy, these new efforts are sure to keep drug use on decline.
- Ensure our commitment to world leadership. The President is committed to keeping America strong by maintaining our role as the world's indispensable nation. This includes:
 - building an undivided, democratic Europe by expanding NATO;
 - remaining a force for peace throughout the world;
 - moving strongly against new threats to our security;
 - reducing the threat of weapons of mass destruction.
- **Strengthening Our Communities.** The President's plan helps strengthen America's communities by:
 - Investing in our cities, giving them the tools and opportunities they need to create an urban renaissance. President Clinton firmly believes that the best community development program, the best anti-poverty program, and the best jobs program is a growing economy. The President's plan helps our inner cities by:
 - helping bring private enterprise into the inner city;
 - increasing funding for empowerment zones;
 - increasing funding for community development banks, to spur more investment and loans.
 - Protecting the environment, ensuring a cleaner, healthier planet for our children. The President's plan invests:
 - through \$6.3 billion in tax cuts to businesses and individuals, the President's Climate Change Plan finds a way to grow the economy and reduce greenhouse emissions at the same time;
 - large increases in research and development so we can find more and more innovative ways to continue cleaning the environment while keeping the economy strong.
 - Helping the country become One America for the 21st Century. The goal of the President's Initiative on Race is to create a more just and fair society that underscores our shared strengths, instead of focusing on our differences. President Clinton is determined to continue his commitment with the Race Initiative in 1998 -- emphasizing that our national diversity is our greatest strength.
- **Preparing for the Millennium.** In conclusion, the President will talk of the importance of the Millennium and the opportunity it presents us to honor the past, and imagine the future.

providing retirement security for all Americans in the 21st century. That is why he is calling on Congress to secure Social Security for future generations as a first priority.

- Investing in the American people through education and training. Education is the key to opportunity. Tomorrow, President Clinton will ask us to make our public elementary and secondary schools the best in the world -- by raising standards, raising expectations and raising accountability. He will call for:
 - voluntary national testing;
 - 100,000 new teachers in grades 1-3;
 - a School Construction Tax Cut to help rebuild, modernize, and build new schools;
 - a mentoring program;
 - continued college access expansion, so that every American who wants to can go to college.
- Tearing down trade barriers to open new markets for American products and workers. The President's plan seeks to renew his negotiating authority to open even more foreign markets to American goods and services. It calls for responsible action, working with the international community, to help those countries hurt by economic instability that are willing to undertake serious efforts to put their own economic houses in order. It also includes initiatives to enable all Americans to share in the prosperity of the global marketplace. Building on the funding for training we have provided to dislocated workers, the President will challenge Congress to pass the GI Bill for Workers to give workers a simple grant so they can move more quickly to newer, better jobs.
- **A Society that Acts Responsibly.** The President is intent on helping create a society that acts responsibly. To enforce this commitment, the President's plan will:
 - Continue moving people from welfare to work. Challenge thousands more businesses to join the 3000 companies already in our welfare-to-work partnership.
 - Health Care Consumer Bill of Rights. The President called on Congress to pass federally enforceable consumer health care protections before it adjourns this year. This Health Care Bill of Rights should contain a range of protections, including guaranteed access to needed health care specialists to ensure that patients are provided appropriate high quality care and access to emergency room services when and where they need it.
 - Access to affordable, quality health care. Providing new options for Americans ages 55 to 65 to obtain Health Insurance, including opportunities to buy into Medicare.
 - An historic child care initiative. To improve child care for America's working families the President is proposing approximately \$20 billion over five years for child care, including elements to help working families pay for child care, build a good supply of after-school programs, improve the safety and quality of care, and promote early learning.

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 - an economy that honors opportunity;
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PRESIDENT CLINTON AND VICE PRESIDENT GORE

Working on Behalf of African Americans

ECONOMY

Balanced the Federal budget -- The President's FY99 budget will be *the first balanced budget in a generation*, after inheriting a record \$290 billion deficit in 1992.

Over 14 million new jobs created. The economy has created more than 14 million new jobs during the Clinton Administration -- a faster annual rate of job growth (2.5 percent per year) than *any* Republican Administration since the Roaring 1920s.

Declining Unemployment. The unemployment rate for African Americans has dropped from 14.1% in January 1993 to 9.9% today -- that's the lowest the African American unemployment rate has been in 24 years.

Keeping inflation in check. Inflation has averaged 2.6 percent since President Clinton took office -- compared to 4.2 percent in the twelve years before the President took office.

Strong private sector growth. Over the past year, the private sector grew an impressive 4.6 percent. Since taking office, private sector has grown 3.6 percent per year under President Clinton.

Family income up. After falling by almost \$2,000 between 1988 and 1992, African American median family income rose by nearly \$3,000 between 1992 and 1996.

Poverty down. The poverty rate for African Americans fell from 33.4 percent in 1992 to 28.4 percent in 1996 -- the lowest level since the published data begin in 1959.

Minimum-Wage increase. The President raised the minimum wage to \$5.15 an hour -- directly benefitting 1.3 million African American workers.

Two and a half times more small business loans to African American entrepreneurs. Between 1993 and 1997 the SBA approved more than 9,000 loans to African American entrepreneurs under the 7(a) and 504 loan programs. Last year alone, the Small Business Administration granted 1,900 loans, worth \$286 million, to African American small business owners, two and a half times the number of loans granted in 1992.

Increasing home ownership. There are 67.1 million American families, including 5.5 million African Americans, who own homes, nearly 6 million new homeowners since the President took office.

FIGHTING FOR EQUAL OPPORTUNITY

Building One America. The President is leading the nation in an effort to become One America in the 21st Century: a place where we respect others' differences and, at the same time, embrace the values that unite us. Dr. John Hope Franklin, Advisory Board Chair, and Rev. Suzan Johnson Cook serve on the Advisory Board to the President's Initiative on Race, which the President charged with overseeing this effort.

An Administration that looks like One America. Appointed the most diverse Cabinet and Administration in history. Members of the Clinton Cabinet include four African Americans: Rodney Slater, Secretary of Department of Transportation; Jesse Brown, Secretary of Veterans Affairs; Alexis Herman, Secretary of Labor; and Franklin Raines, Director of Office of Management and Budget. Thirteen percent of Clinton Administration appointees are African American, which is twice as many African Americans as any previous administration. These appointees include: Bob Nash, Assistant to the President and Director of Presidential Personnel at the White House; Thurgood Marshall, Assistant to the President and Director of Cabinet Affairs at the White House; and Cheryl Mills, Deputy Assistant to the President and Deputy Counsel at the White House.

Judicial Appointments. Clinton has named 11 African Americans as U.S. Attorneys and 12 African Americans as U.S. Marshals. Over 54 African Americans have been nominated by Clinton to the Federal bench, which is 17 percent of his total Federal bench nominations. These appointees and nominees include: Eric Holder, Deputy Attorney General Department of Justice and Eric Clay, Judge, Sixth Circuit at the U.S. Circuit Court.

Tuskegee Apology. President Clinton apologized to the victims of the Tuskegee Syphilis Experiment and their families, and directed Health and Human Services Secretary, Donna Shalala, to issue a report about how best to involve communities, especially minority communities, in research and health care. HHS will award a planning grant to Tuskegee University to help it establish a center for bioethics in research and health care.

Assessment of Affirmative Action programs. Ordered a comprehensive review of the government's affirmative action programs which concluded that affirmative action is still an effective and important tool to expand educational and economic opportunity to all Americans.

Opposed California Prop 209. Filed *amicus* briefs opposing California Proposition 209, which would prohibit state affirmative action programs.

Election fairness. Defended racially fair redistricting plans against claims that they were unconstitutional; prevented election day discrimination against minority voters and voter intimidation and harassment by monitoring polling place activities in a record number of states and counties.

Defended fairness. Filed more cases between 1993 and 1997 to enforce fair housing laws than any other Administration (more than 500 cases). Desegregated a Vidor, Texas public housing complex; ordered a Mississippi bank to implement remedial lending plans for minority customers once denied loans by the bank.

Eliminated discriminatory “redlining” practices. Negotiated agreements with health care agencies to eliminate discriminatory “redlining” practices denying home health care services based on residential location.

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Focused Health Efforts. Established the Office of the Minority Health Research and Alternative Medicine at the National Institutes of Health. Helped communities develop culturally-competent systems for care for children with serious emotional disturbances through the Comprehensive Mental Health Services for Children and Families program.

EDUCATION

Largest investment in education in 30 years. Maintaining his longtime commitment to education, the President enacted the largest investment in education in 30 years -- and the largest investment in higher education since the G.I. Bill -- by signing the 1997 Balanced Budget Act.

African American advisory board. Established the President's Board of Advisors for Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) to strengthen the capacity of historically black colleges and universities to provide quality education. Advised on ways to increase the private sector's role in these institutions.

Increased funding and grants for HBCUs. Increased funding for Historically Black Colleges by nearly \$250 million between FY92 and FY97, an almost 25% increase. Increased Fulbright grant awards to HBCUs in FY96 by almost 50% over the amount reported in FY95.

Enrollment. A record percentage of African Americans were enrolled in post-secondary education in 1994 -- 35.6% of African American graduates.

AmeriCorps college support. Since 1993, more than 100,000 people have had the opportunity to serve through AmeriCorps, with African Americans comprising 20 percent of all participants (1996 data). This year alone, nearly 50,000 young people will take advantage of the opportunity to serve and earn an award of up to \$4,725 to pay for college or repay student loans.

FIGHTING CRIME

White House Conference on Hate Crimes. President Clinton announced the first White House Conference on Hate Crimes, which examined laws and remedies that can make a difference in preventing hate crimes, highlighted solutions that are working in communities across the country, and continued the frank and open dialogue needed to build One America.

Enhanced penalties for hate crimes. As part of the historic 1994 Crime Act, the President signed the Hate Crimes Sentencing Enhancement Act which provides for longer sentences where the offense is determined to be a hate crime. In 1996 alone, 27 cases received enhanced sentences.

Action Against Church Burnings. Focused the nation's attention and resources to help stop the rash of church burnings across the country, prosecuted those responsible, and sped the rebuilding process.

SAFE AND CLEAN ENVIRONMENT

Environmental justice and redevelopment. Issued an Executive Order on Environmental Justice to ensure that low income citizens and minorities do not suffer a disproportionate burden of industrial pollution. Identified pilot projects to be undertaken across the country to redevelop contaminated sites in low-income communities, turn them into useable space, create jobs and enhance community development.

AMERICAN LEADERSHIP

Democracy for Haiti. Restored democracy to Haiti and enabled the first transfer of power from one democratically elected president to another in Haitian history.

Democracy for South Africa. Assisted South Africa's transition to democracy by providing support for elections and development.

Promoting democracy in Africa. Hosted the first White House Conference on Africa in July 1994. Recognizing the valuable role that Africa plays in global affairs, President Clinton created the position of Special Envoy for the President and the Secretary of State for the promotion of democracy in Africa and appointed Reverend Jesse Jackson to serve in this role.

PRESIDENT CLINTON AND VICE PRESIDENT GORE

Working on Behalf of the Hispanic Community

ECONOMY

Balanced the Federal budget -- The President's FY99 budget will be *the first balanced budget in a generation*, after inheriting a record \$290 billion deficit in 1992.

Over 14 million new jobs created. The economy has created more than 14 million new jobs during the Clinton Administration -- a faster annual rate of job growth (2.5 percent per year) than any Republican Administration since the Roaring 1920s.

Declining unemployment. The unemployment rate for Hispanics in December 1997 was 7.1 percent, down from 11.3 percent when President Clinton first took office.

Keeping inflation in check. Inflation has averaged 2.6 percent since President Clinton took office -- compared to 4.2 percent in the twelve years before the President took office.

Strong private sector growth. Over the past year, the private sector grew an impressive 4.6 percent. Since taking office, private sector has grown 3.6 percent per year under President Clinton.

Minimum wage increase. The President raised the minimum wage to \$5.15 an hour -- directly benefitting more than 1.6 million Hispanic workers.

Two and a half times more small business loans to Hispanic entrepreneurs. Between 1993 and 1997 the SBA approved nearly 15,000 loans to Hispanic entrepreneurs under the 7(a) and 504 loan programs. Last year alone, the Small Business Administration granted more than 3,300 loans, worth \$615 million, to Hispanic small business owners, two and a half times the number of loans granted in 1992.

Expanded investment in urban and rural areas. Created over 120 Empowerment Zones and Enterprise Communities and expanded access to capital through Community Development Banks and Financial Institutions.

FIGHTING FOR EQUAL OPPORTUNITY

Building One America. The President is leading the nation in an effort to become One America in the 21st Century: a place where we respect others' differences and, at the same time, embrace the values that unite us. AFL-CIO Executive Vice President Linda Chavez-Thompson serves on the Advisory Board to the President's Initiative on Race, which the President charged with overseeing this effort.

An Administration that looks like One America. Appointed the most diverse Cabinet and Administration in history. 12 percent of the Clinton Cabinet are Hispanics, including: Secretary of Energy Federico Peña; Ambassador to the United Nations Bill Richardson; and Small Business Administrator Aida Alvarez.

Judicial appointments. Seven percent of all judicial appointments are Hispanics including Jose Cabranes, Judge, Second Circuit U.S. Circuit Court; David Briones, Judge Western Texas U.S. District Court; and Jorge Rangel, Judge-designee Fifth Circuit U.S. Circuit Court.

Senior level Administration appointments. Appointed more Hispanics to senior level positions than any President in American history, including U.S. Ambassador to Belize Carolyn Curriel, Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC) President George Muñoz; Assistant to the President and Director of Public Liaison at the White House Maria Echaveste; Assistant to the President and Director of Intergovernmental Affairs at the White House Mickey Ibarra; Director of the United States Marshals Service Eduardo Gonzalez; and Commissioner of Bureau of Reclamation Department of Interior Eluid Levi Martinez. Significantly, many of these appointments are outside what had been considered the "traditional" Hispanic areas of interest.

Assessment of affirmative action programs. Ordered a comprehensive review of the government's affirmative action programs which concluded that affirmative action remains an effective and important tool to expand education and economic opportunity to all Americans.

Opposed California Prop 209. Filed *amicus* briefs opposing California Proposition 209, which would prohibit state affirmative action programs.

Election fairness. Prevented election day discrimination against minority voters and voter intimidation and harassment by monitoring polling place activities in a record number of states and counties. Continued enforcement efforts to ensure that citizens who rely on Spanish have the same opportunities to participate in voting-related activities as English-speaking voters.

Expanded voting rights. The Administration argued in federal court to expand the Voting Rights Act and defended racially fair redistricting plans. The National Voter Registration Act or "Motor Voter" law has registered at least nine million new voters and made voting easier for more than 20 million Americans.

Opposed California Prop 187. Opposed California's Proposition 187, which would have made illegal immigrants ineligible for public school education at all levels and ineligible for public health care services, because of its detrimental impact on children and its threat to public health.

Investigated discrimination. Authorized investigations into discrimination practices by lenders and property insurers to help end discrimination in the provision of home mortgages.

EDUCATION

Largest investment in education in 30 years. Maintaining his longtime commitment to education, the President enacted the largest investment in education in 30 years -- and the largest investment in higher education since the G.I. Bill -- by signing the 1997 Balanced Budget Act.

Increased funding for Hispanic-serving colleges. Last year, enacted an 11% increase for Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs), colleges with at least 25% Hispanic enrollments.

Hispanic advisory commission. Established an advisory commission to oversee the improvement in education for Hispanics and to ensure that Hispanic-serving institutions will have more input regarding educational goals and issues of concern to Hispanics. The Commission's report identified contributing factors impacting attainment of educational excellence, corrective policy actions, and plans for program development and funding. (Executive Order on Educational Excellence for Hispanics)

Student Diversity Partnership Program. Partnered with Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities, National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education, an Indian Science and Engineering Society and the Center for the Advancement of Hispanics in Science and Engineering Education to implement the Student Diversity Partnership Program. This program will ensure an adequate supply of diverse and qualified scientists and engineers for the 21st century.

AmeriCorps college support. Since 1993, more than 100,000 people have had the opportunity to serve through AmeriCorps, with Hispanics comprising 13 percent of all participants (1996 data). This year alone, nearly 50,000 young people will take advantage of the opportunity to serve and will earn an award of up to \$4,725 to pay for college or repay student loans.

Increased bilingual education by 35%. Last year, enacted a 35% *increase* in bilingual and immigrant education secured by the President in the Balanced Budget Agreement. The bilingual education funding will help school districts teach English to more than a million limited English proficient children, as well as provide some 4,000 teachers with the training they need to do their jobs better. The Immigrant Education program will help more than a thousand school districts provide supplemental instructional services to 875,000 recent immigrant students.

Helping more children in elementary and secondary schools. In 1994, President Clinton reformed Title I -- the major elementary and secondary program for disadvantaged children -- clearing away barriers that had prevented limited-English proficient children from getting help. Now Hispanics are 32% of the children served in Title I, the largest share of all communities.

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Focused health efforts. Established the Office of the Minority Health Research and Alternative Medicine at the National Institutes of Health. Helped communities develop culturally-competent systems of care for children with serious emotional disturbances through the Comprehensive Mental Health Services for Children and Families program. Negotiated agreements with hospitals and nursing homes to eliminate barriers to equal access for minorities based on language.

Increasing home ownership. Launched a program to increase the home ownership rate of Hispanics in the U.S. through advertising, education and counseling programs and working with lending institutions to better serve the Hispanic community. Progress has been made, 3.7 million Hispanics, or 43.3 percent, now own their homes.

FIGHTING CRIME

White House Conference on Hate Crimes. President Clinton announced the first White House Conference on Hate Crimes, which examined laws and remedies that can make a difference in preventing hate crimes, highlighted solutions that are working in communities across the country, and continued the frank and open dialogue needed to build One America.

Enhanced penalties for hate crimes. As part of the historic 1994 Crime Act, the President signed the Hate Crimes Sentencing Enhancement Act which provides for longer sentences where the offense is determined to be a hate crime. In 1996 alone, 27 cases received enhanced sentences.

SAFE AND CLEAN ENVIRONMENT

Environmental justice and redevelopment. Issued an Executive Order on Environmental Justice, ensuring that low income citizens and minorities do not suffer a disproportionate burden of industrial pollution. Identified pilot projects to be undertaken across the country to redevelop contaminated sites in low-income communities and turn them into useable space, creating jobs and enhancing community development.

IMMIGRATION

Fairness for immigrants. The President worked with Congress to correct the most egregious impacts of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996. As a result, almost a million people will be able to proceed with legalizing their immigration status under the former standards of immigration law and not the new, stricter and more burdensome standards enacted last year.

Restored benefits to legal immigrants. When the President signed the 1996 Welfare Reform Law, he pledged to go back and change provisions he opposed regarding the cutting off of benefits to legal immigrants. Critics said the changes would never be made. However, in 1997, the President followed through on his pledge -- and won most of the changes he sought in the 1996 law. The President fought for and won \$11.5 billion in SSI and Medicaid benefits for legal immigrants. He won changes that protect those immigrants now receiving assistance, ensuring that they will not be turned out of their apartments or nursing homes or otherwise left destitute. And immigrants in this country as of August 22, 1996, but not receiving benefits who subsequently become disabled will be eligible for SSI and Medicaid.

Naturalization. Made naturalization a top priority of the Immigration and Naturalization Service in order to continue fostering legal immigration while combating illegal immigration. Naturalized over one million individuals in 1996. The Administration continues to work to streamline and improve the naturalization process so that eligible individuals who have played by the rules can become full partners in America.

Defended immigrant rights. The Administration defeated legislative efforts which would have significantly eroded health care for immigrants. The bipartisan agreement strengthened the sponsorship requirement while preserving the basic ability of families to reunify.

AMERICAN LEADERSHIP

Democracy for Cuba. Increased efforts to promote a peaceful, democratic transition in Cuba by toughening sanctions after the brutal shoot down of U.S. civilian aircraft over international waters and signing the Helms-Burton Act to penalize those who traffic in confiscated properties in Cuba. Awarded a landmark \$500,000 grant to Freedom House to assist human rights activists in Cuba.

Support our closest neighbors. Took decisive action in assembling a financial support package for Mexico. The President's leadership prevented a prolonged financial crisis in Mexico and its spread to other Latin American countries.

PRESIDENT CLINTON AND VICE PRESIDENT GORE

Working on Behalf of Asian And Pacific Americans

ECONOMY

Balanced the federal budget -- The President's FY99 budget will be *the first balanced budget in a generation*, after inheriting a record \$290 billion deficit in 1992.

Over 14 million new jobs created. The economy has created more than 14 million new jobs during the Clinton Administration -- a faster annual rate of job growth (2.5 percent per year) than *any* Republican Administration since the Roaring 1920s.

Keeping inflation in check. Inflation has averaged 2.6 percent since President Clinton took office -- compared to 4.2 percent in the twelve years before the President took office.

Strong private sector growth. Over the past year, the private sector grew an impressive 4.6%. Since taking office, private sector has grown 3.6% per year under President Clinton.

Tripled the number of small business loans to Asian and Pacific American entrepreneurs. Between 1993 and 1997 the SBA approved nearly 17,000 loans to Asian and Pacific American entrepreneurs under the 7(a) and 504 loan programs. Last year alone, the Small Business Administration granted more than 4,500 loans to Asian and Pacific American small business owners, nearly triple the number of loans granted in 1992.

Opening doors to trade. Secured commitments from Asian Pacific Economic Cooperation leaders to eliminate barriers to open trade in the Asian Pacific region in 2020. Negotiated 240 separate trade agreements, tearing down trade barriers to U.S. goods, helping to increase exports by nearly 50% over the past five years and creating 1.7 million export-related jobs. Notably, thirty percent of U.S. exports go to Asia and this country exports more goods to Asia than Europe.

High Tech exports soar. Under President Clinton: exports of semi conductors have grown 139 percent; telecommunications exports have grown 113 percent; and exports of computers and computer-related goods have grown 54 percent.

EDUCATION

Largest investment in education in 30 years. Maintaining his longtime commitment to education, the President enacted the largest investment in education in 30 years -- and the largest investment in higher education since the G.I. Bill -- by signing the 1997 Balanced Budget Act.

Foreign language. Restructured Foreign Language Assistance Programs to assist local schools in establishing programs in Chinese, Japanese and Korean. Strongly opposed legislation to make English the official language of the United States which would have jeopardized services and programs for non-English speakers and jeopardized assistance to the tens of thousands of new immigrants and others seeking to learn adult English.

Addressing minority needs. Hosted Asian Pacific American Education Forums to address the needs of Asian Pacific American students and their teachers.

AmeriCorps college support. Since 1993, more than 100,000 people have had the opportunity to serve through AmeriCorps, with Asian and Pacific American comprising 3% of all participants (1996 data). This year alone, nearly 50,000 young people will take advantage of the opportunity to serve and earn an award of up to \$4,725 to pay for college or repay student loans.

Increased bilingual education by 35%. Last year, enacted a *35% increase* in bilingual and immigrant education secured by the President in the Balanced Budget Agreement. The bilingual education funding will help school districts teach English to more than a million limited English proficient children, as well as provide some 4,000 teachers with the training they need to do their jobs better. The Immigrant Education program will help more than a thousand school districts provide supplemental instructional services to 875,000 recent immigrant students.

Helping more children in elementary and secondary schools. In 1994, President Clinton reformed Title I -- the major elementary and secondary program for disadvantaged children -- clearing away barriers that had prevented limited-English proficient children from getting help.

Opposed Gallegly Amendment. The Administration opposed the Gallegly Amendment which would have ended the guarantee of public education for all children. It would have shifted immigration enforcement from the borders and work sites to classrooms and made children susceptible to gangs and violence.

PROMOTING EQUAL OPPORTUNITY

Building One America. The President is leading the nation in an effort to become One America in the 21st Century: a place where we respect others' differences and, at the same time, embrace the values that unite us. Angela Oh serves on the Advisory Board to the President's Initiative on Race, which the President charged with overseeing this effort.

An Administration that looks like One America. Appointed the most diverse Cabinet and Administration in history. The Clinton Administration has more than twice as many Asian and Pacific American appointees as the previous Administration including Bill Lann Lee, Acting Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights, Department of Justice; Nancy Ann-Min Deparle, Administrator of the Health Care Finance Administration, Department of Health and Human Services; and Robert Gee, Assistant Secretary for Policy, Planning and Program Evaluation, Department of Energy.

Judicial appointments. Nominated more Asian and Pacific Americans to the federal bench than any other Administration, including A. Wallace Tashima, Judge U.S. Ninth Circuit Court.

Opposed California Prop 209. Filed *amicus* briefs opposing California Proposition 209 which would prohibit state affirmative action programs.

Election fairness. Prevented election day discrimination against minority voters and voter intimidation and harassment by monitoring polling place activities in a record number of states and counties. Continued enforcement efforts to ensure that citizens who rely on Asian languages have the same opportunities to participate in voting-related activities as English-speaking voters.

Focused health efforts. Established the Office of the Minority Health Research and Alternative Medicine at the National Institutes of Health. Helped communities develop culturally-competent systems of care for children with serious emotional disturbances through the Comprehensive Mental Health Services for Children and Families program. Negotiated agreements with hospitals and nursing homes to eliminate barriers to equal access for minorities based on language.

FIGHTING CRIME

White House Conference on Hate Crimes. President Clinton announced the first White House Conference on Hate Crimes, which examined laws and remedies that can make a difference in preventing hate crimes, highlighted solutions that are working in communities across the country, and continued the frank and open dialogue needed to build One America.

Enhanced penalties for hate crimes. As part of the historic 1994 Crime Act, the President signed the Hate Crimes Sentencing Enhancement Act which provides for longer sentences where the offense is determined to be a hate crime. In 1996 alone, 27 cases received enhanced sentences.

SAFE AND CLEAN ENVIRONMENT

Environmental justice and redevelopment. Issued an Executive Order on Environmental Justice, ensuring that low income citizens and minorities do not suffer a disproportionate burden of industrial pollution. Identified pilot projects to be undertaken across the country to redevelop contaminated sites in low-income communities and turn them into useable space, creating jobs and enhancing community development.

IMMIGRATION

Naturalization. Made naturalization a top priority of the Immigration and Naturalization Service in order to continue fostering legal immigration while combating illegal immigration. Naturalized over one million individuals in 1996. The Administration continues to work to

streamline and improve the naturalization process so that eligible individuals who have played by the rules can become full partners in America.

Responsible immigration reform. Worked to enact responsible immigration reform legislation by properly focusing on immigration enforcement and opposing severe reductions in legal immigration which were not consistent with pro-family, pro-worker and pro-naturalization principles.

Defended immigrant rights. The Administration defeated legislative efforts which would have significantly eroded health care for immigrants. The bipartisan agreement strengthened the sponsorship requirement while preserving the basic ability of families to reunify.

**PRESIDENT CLINTON'S PROPOSALS:
FIGHTING JUVENILE CRIME AND DRUG USE**

"Now, we must work together to do more, to protect our children from the scourge of violent crime and especially from crimes committed by other young people. This is now my highest law enforcement priority. We must provide for more prosecutors and probation officers, tougher penalties, and also better gang prevention efforts, including after school programs, so that young people have something to say yes to and some way of staying out of trouble."

--President Clinton, October 9, 1997

While overall crime rates have been declining, juvenile crime and drug use remain serious problems. Juvenile gun murders have quadrupled, teenage drug use has risen, and youth gangs have spread to large cities and rural towns throughout America. In the State of the Union, the President again challenged Congress to confront this issue and pass his Anti-Gang and Youth Violence Strategy. Specifically, his strategy and budget call for:

- **Targeting Gangs and Violent Juveniles.** To help state and local prosecutors crackdown on gang members and violent juveniles, the President has proposed \$150 million to hire new prosecutors and expand anti-gang task forces; \$60 million to establish juvenile gun and drug courts that ensure swift and certain punishment for youthful offenders; and tough new penalties and prosecutorial tools.
- **Cracking Down on Guns and Gun Traffickers.** To keep violent juveniles from buying guns as adults, the President's strategy also proposes to ban violent juveniles from buying guns on their 21st birthdays. His strategy also increases penalties for selling handguns to juveniles and other offenses, and includes \$28 million to expand the Youth Crime Gun Interdiction Initiative (YCGII), which helps local law enforcement trace illegal firearms to their source.
- **Keeping Kids In School, Off Drugs and Out of Trouble.** To ensure that kids are supervised from 3 to 8 p.m. --the time when most violent juvenile crimes are committed --the President's strategy proposes \$95 million for the Justice Department to help keep schools open later and to promote anti-truancy initiatives and curfews. The President's Child Care Initiative also quadruples funding for Department of Education-sponsored after school programs, and his Drug Strategy includes new funds for Safe and Drug-Free schools.