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Folder Title: Budget [Statement 11-2-00]

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Good morning. Let me say a word at the outset about the developments in the Middle East. Last night, the parties reached an understanding on how to end the violence based upon the Sharm el-Sheikh agreement. I hope the parties can now move quickly to implement it and put an end to the violence that has caused so much pain on both sides.

We know this will not be easy. This morning, we were reminded once again in Jerusalem that there are those who seek to destroy peace through acts of terror. They cannot be permitted to prevail. Now is the time for those who stand for peace to stand together.

I wanted all of you to be here today because you have worked so hard on America’s priorities here at home.

The Republican leadership of the 106th Congress has proven itself unable to finish its work before facing the voters. Congressional Republicans are leaving behind a legacy of unfinished business on health care, education, economic progress and social justice. Regrettably, this is a Congress that may well be remembered for its broken promises, lost opportunities, and misplaced priorities.

In contrast, my Administration with Congressional Democrats put forward an achievable agenda for America’s families – a real Patients Bill of Rights; expanding health care coverage to millions of uninsured Americans; a raise in the minimum wage; tax cuts for education and retirement; improving our public schools; protecting our environment; strengthening Medicare with prescription drug coverage for all seniors; and a balanced budget that pays off the debt by 2012. We had a simple strategy to accomplish these goals – build overwhelming public support, reach out to win bipartisan majorities in Congress, and call for a vote. That’s putting progress over partisanship – and the result should have been a strong record of legislative achievement.

But time and again, rather than heeding the needs of the American people, the Republican leadership has bowed to the demands of the special interests.

On every issue, we’ve worked in good faith to craft compromises we all thought were right. And when Democrats and Republicans have worked together, we have made good progress. We won new investment for America’s inner cities, rural communities and Native American reservations – and 79,000 new housing vouchers for families climbing out of poverty. We increased our investment in a clean environment, and doubled our funds for land conservation. We enacted the largest one-year increase ever requested for Veterans Affairs; and we met our commitment to debt relief for developing countries.
Just Sunday, we reached bipartisan agreement on an education budget that would have been a tremendous achievement for America’s kids. But under orders from the special interests, the Republican leadership cancelled that compromise. So unless we keep fighting, there will be no funds for school construction. No more progress toward cutting class size by hiring 100,000 new teachers. No new investment in teacher quality. And no new funding to strengthen accountability and turn around failing schools. That is wrong and we must keep working to make it right.

We built a bipartisan coalition to strengthen Medicare and Medicaid by expanding coverage for children with disabilities, Americans who are moving from welfare to work, and pregnant women and children who are legal immigrants. But the Republican leadership rejected these proposals in favor of a massive giveaway to HMOs -- tens of billions of dollars without taking care of these vulnerable populations or adequately compensating the teaching and rural hospitals, home health agencies and other providers who serve them. Before the year is out, we must resolve this matter fairly and finally.

The leadership says they didn’t have time to complete the budget. But they wasted no time in blocking fair treatment for Latino immigrants; in blocking common-sense gun safety legislation; trying to stop new worker safety rules; and filling the spending bills they did pass with political pork.

One thing should be clear: the lack of progress from this Congress was not a failure of bipartisanship. On raising the minimum wage, a real Patients’ Bill of Rights, hate crimes legislation, campaign finance reform, school construction, New Markets legislation – on all these issues, we had bipartisan majorities ready to pass them. But the Republican leadership and their special interest allies had the power to kill them.

It is unfortunate that the Republican leadership failed to deliver on so much that was within our grasp. But this fight is not over. The American people expect us to finish the job they sent us here to do. And when the Republican leadership is ready to meet that challenge, we stand ready to work with them.

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Yesterday, the Republican leadership of the 106th Congress finally declared itself unable to finish its work before facing the voters. Congressional Republicans are packing up and leaving behind a legacy of unfinished business on health care, education, economic progress and social justice. This is a Congress that may well be remembered for its broken promises, lost opportunities, and misplaced priorities.

In contrast, Congressional Democrats put forward an achievable agenda for America’s families – a real Patients Bill of Rights; expanding health care coverage to millions of uninsured Americans; a raise in the minimum wage; tax cuts for education and retirement; improving our public schools; protecting our environment; and strengthening Medicare with prescription drug coverage for all seniors. We had a simple strategy to accomplish these goals – build overwhelming public support, reach out to win bipartisan majorities in Congress, and call for a vote.

But instead of working with us, time and again the Republican leadership has chosen to take care of special interests before taking care of the American people.

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Just Sunday, we reached agreement on a bipartisan education budget that would have been a tremendous achievement for America’s kids. But the Republican leadership listened to special interests, and changed its mind. That would mean no funds for school construction. No progress toward cutting class size by hiring 100,000 new teachers. No new investment in teacher quality. And no new funding to strengthen accountability and turn around failing schools.

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Thank you.
This year, the members of the 106th Congress made history. They did so when their Republican Leadership finally declared themselves unable -- or unwilling -- to finish their work before facing their voters. This is the first time Congress has struggled into an election-year November since World War II. That is making the wrong kind of history. That is taking the wrong side of history.

This did not have to be so. Instead of choosing the path of progress in these times of historic prosperity, the Republican leaders have compiled a record of broken promises and lost opportunities.
Good morning. Yesterday, the 106th Congress put itself squarely on the wrong side of history – when its Republican leadership finally declared itself unable or unwilling to finish its work before facing the voters. This year marks the first time Congress has continued budget negotiations into the week before elections since World War II. That’s a failure of leadership of monumental proportions, coming after weeks of broken promises and lost opportunities.

Instead of choosing the path of bipartisan progress, Congressional Republicans have decided to go home, and ask their constituents to send them back to Washington, so they can finish last year’s business next year.

In contrast, Congressional Democrats have fought long and hard for America’s priorities, and we’ve worked in good faith with members of both parties to craft compromises we all thought were right. When Democrats and Republicans have worked together, we made good progress. We won new investment for America’s inner cities, rural communities and Native American reservations – and 79,000 new housing vouchers for families climbing out of poverty. We increased our investment in a clean environment, and doubled our funds for land conservation. We enacted the largest one-year increase ever requested for Veterans Affairs; and we met our commitment to debt relief for developing countries.

Unfortunately, those successes were the exception and not the rule. More often, when we reached an agreement, the Republican leadership went back on it. When we built a bipartisan majority, the Republicans tabled it. When we’ve extended deadlines, they’ve broken them. And when we’ve challenged them to honor the people’s interests, they have instead catered to the special interests.

Democrats have waited and waited for the Republican leadership to act. So have the American people. But enough is enough. In recent days, we’ve had to say no to tax cuts that would consume our entire surplus. We’ve said no to a bill that took care of Congress and the White House before it took care of the American people. And we’ve said no to a bill that funded education but blocked workplace safety standards that would prevent 300,000 on-the-job injuries a year.

If Republicans think that the American people just won’t notice that they failed to do the job, they’re wrong. There’s too much at stake for our children and our future. Just think about education. [NEC chart] Their way means no Head Start for 70,000 children. No progress toward cutting class sizes for 650,000 grade-schoolers. No funds for school construction, and no
action on $1 billion of urgent school repairs. Their way also means no new after-school programs for 850,000 children. No new investment in training for as many as 1.2 million teachers. No new funding to strengthen accountability and turn around failing schools. No new funding for the needs of special education students, or college preparation for children at risk. And no new Pell Grants for 4 million college students who need help to stay in school.

But education isn’t the only thing Democrats have been fighting for. With bipartisan support, we put forward strong proposals to raise the minimum wage, pass a strong Patients Bill of Rights and a hate crimes bill. We proposed targeted tax cuts that are good for children, families, seniors and small business. But the Republican leadership let special interests stand in the way of every one of those initiatives.

We fought for a Medicare prescription drug benefit, and we had the support of the American people. We had a bipartisan coalition to extend health care coverage to thousands of Americans who need it. We had the votes to pass campaign finance reform. But every time the Republican leadership used their power to kill our initiative.

The leadership says they didn’t have time to complete the budget. But they wasted no time in blocking fair treatment for Latino immigrants; in blocking common-sense gun safety legislation; and filling the spending bills they did pass with political pork.

Bear in mind, almost all these initiatives had bipartisan support. But none of them made it to my desk before the Republican leadership decided to take a timeout. Why? Because the Republican leadership went behind closed doors and let the whispers of special interests drown out the voices of the American people.

The American people expect us to finish the job they sent us here to do. The Republican leadership has failed to keep its end of that bargain. As I have said repeatedly, the path to progress is one we have to walk together. And when Republicans are ready to work again, we’ll be ready to work with them.

Thank you, and now I’d like to turn it over to Senator Daschle.
To: See the distribution list at the bottom of this message
cc: IMPORTANT FOR WHOEVER IS WRITING POTUS BUDGET STATEMENT THURS AM

This is key info that may be on a chart that POTUS will use about the education deal the R’s walked away from.

Education Opportunity: Republican Rejection

- Head Start for 70,000 more low-income children
- Smaller Classes for 650,000 more children
- Urgent School repairs worth $1 billion for school districts
- After-School learning for 850,000 more children
- Teacher Training for up to 1.2 million more teachers
- Increased Accountability for 2,300 more low-performing schools
- Special Education resources of $1.6 billion more to help 6 million students
- College Preparation for 600,000 more at-risk students through GEAR UP

Pell Grant Increases of up to $500 for 4 million needy college students
INVEST IN CLEANER ENVIRONMENT. The budget provides $3.9 billion for the EPA, a 9 percent increase, to strengthen the backbone of the nation’s environmental protection efforts.

Conserve America’s Lands: Congress passed a bipartisan agreement doubling our conservation investment next year, and guaranteeing even greater funding in the years ahead, to ensure that communities have the resources they need to protect their most precious lands—from neighborhood parks to threatened farmland to pristine coastlands. The Interior budget bill included $1.2 billion—a 90 percent increase—for conservation, preservation, and infrastructure improvement.

Clean Water: The budget includes an 8 percent increase -- over $164 million -- for President Clinton’s Clean Water Action Plan. Forty percent of our nation’s waters don’t meet water quality standards.

Global Warming: The budget includes $123 million, a 19 percent increase, for the EPA’s Climate Change Technology Initiative to help businesses and consumers conserve energy and save money and to reduce local air pollution and the emissions that contribute to global warming.

EMPOWER COMMUNITIES. The longest economic expansion in our nation’s history has brought economic opportunity to millions of people once cut off from the economic mainstream, but too many Americans have not shared in this growth.

79,000 New Housing Vouchers: With the Administration’s leadership, the bill includes $453 million to create 79,000 new housing vouchers to subsidize the rents of low-income Americans. These vouchers will expand the supply of affordable housing for the 5.4 million low-income families who pay more than half their incomes for housing or live in severely inadequate units, including a growing number of families working full time. Vouchers often enable families to move closer to job opportunities.

Housing Voucher Reform: Public housing authorities can now use some housing vouchers to expand tenant rental opportunities. Families moving into housing that has a designated voucher will no longer have to give up their rental assistance if they need to move.

Emergency Food and Shelter: The budget includes President Clinton’s request to increase funding for the Federal Emergency Management Agency’s grants by $30 million, to $140 million, to help community-based organizations assist families and individuals who need emergency housing and food. Needy Americans will get 25 million more meals and 1.1 million additional nights of shelter next year.

Homeless Assistance: The budget includes $1.125 billion to help homeless persons obtain temporary and permanent housing and supportive services, including $100 million for Shelter Plus Care renewals.

Capital in Underserved Communities: The President won $118 million for the Community Financial
Legal Hall of Fame. But she has done more. Under her leadership, the Tribunal has reached out to improve public awareness in Bosnia and Croatia, underscoring the role it can play in promoting reconciliation and healing.

She has reached out to Americans as well, drawing parallels between what happened in Bosnia and what she has seen in her own life as an African-American lawyer and advocate.

She is the best answer America could offer to those who feel unaffected by crimes in the Balkans, because the victims are far away; or to those who insist that our efforts at reconciliation are doomed to fail; or to those who believe that, because we cannot hold accountable all who commit war crimes, we should, therefore, not prosecute any.

Gabrielle's example reminds us that we can understand that there will be limits on what we can accomplish, without ourselves limiting unduly what we attempt. And that, in so doing, we may achieve more than was ever believed possible. We may seek justice. We may serve the cause of peace. And we may do our part in creating a future that is better than the past.

I am deeply grateful that she has agreed to continue to speak out on behalf of the Tribunals. I am confident that she will continue to be a voice for justice wherever she goes. And I am profoundly in her debt; as are we all, as well as the people of the Balkans, and people everywhere who love truth and seek to do right.

Gabrielle, thank you; and God bless you.

[End of Document]
Institutions (CDFI) Fund, including $5 in technical assistance for Native American communities. The fund supports local specialized lenders and investors—as well as traditional financial institutions—that make loans and equity investments in underserved communities. It is a vital source of capital to build a national network of community development lenders, following through on one of the President’s original commitments.

- **ENHANCE MILITARY READINESS.** Nine months ago, the Administration set enhancing the current high level of readiness as its top defense priority. The FY 2001 budget fully funds key compensation initiatives, including the Administration’s requests for a 3.7 percent pay increase for military personnel, training, spare parts, equipment maintenance, and base operations. The bill also fully funds key modernization programs such as the F-22 fighter aircraft and the CVN-77 Nuclear Aircraft Carrier.

- **SAVE LIVES BY PREVENTING DRUNK DRIVING.** Congress has also reached agreement on a critical measure to help set a nationwide impaired driving standard of .08 blood alcohol content. This common-sense national limit will save an estimated 500 lives a year and prevent thousands of injuries.

- **INVEST IN RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.** The bill increases the nation’s investment in scientific discovery and education, which has helped fuel economic growth.
  - **Energy Research:** The budget includes a $65 million increase for solar and renewable energy technologies at the Department of Energy to reduce our nation’s reliance on oil, lower the nation’s fuel bills, reduce pollution, and create new high-tech industries and jobs.
  - **National Science Foundation:** The budget contains a $529 million increase for the NSF—the largest increase ever—for a total investment of $4.4 billion. It boosts university-based research and ensures balanced support for all science and engineering disciplines. Increased investments will spur new discoveries in the fields of information technology, nanotechnology, and other areas of fundamental science and engineering.
  - **National Aeronautics and Space Administration:** The final budget includes a $684 million increase for NASA, to $14.3 billion, to help NASA meet its human space flight needs more safely and at lower cost through a new generation of space launch vehicles. The added resources will also enable it to establish a sustained human presence in earth orbit and a robotic presence on Mars.

- **INCREASE COMMUNITY SERVICE.** Today’s legislation includes more than $460 million for national and community service, a $26 million increase. It will allow AmeriCorps to surpass 250,000 members who have served their communities since 1994, helping to close the digital divide, improve education, build public housing, and meet critical social and environmental needs. It will also allow hundreds more National Civilian Community Corps members to continue to provide desperately needed help for communities faced with ravaging fires or devastating floods. The bill includes $7.5 million for America’s Promise—the community service initiative led by General Colin Powell that stemmed from the Presidents’ Summit for America’s Future—to ensure that children grow into healthy, strong, and productive adults.

- **MEET OUR NATIONAL COMMITMENT TO VETERANS.** Today’s legislation provides the additional $1.5 billion the President requested for the Department of Veterans Affairs, the largest one-year increase ever requested by any Administration. These additional resources will help our nation’s 24 million
American personnel to help interview refugees about their horrific experiences. We intend to commit more personnel and resources to this effort -- and I know that the Tribunal will welcome support from other governments and NGOs as well.

Six years ago, the creation of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia was met with great skepticism. We heard predictions that such a tribunal would be irrelevant, or even harmful, to the cause of ending the fighting and establishing a lasting peace.

Today, the question most often asked is when the Court can begin to prepare indictments for crimes in Kosovo.

This has happened because the Tribunal has proven its worth. It has put an ever-increasing number of those who carried out the butchery in Bosnia behind bars. It has helped to marginalize and make pariahs out of those who have been indicted but not yet tried. And it has provided answers to some of the most painful questions about the Bosnian conflict.

The progress the Tribunal has made was far from inevitable. We owe it to support from governments and from groups such as the CEELI-founded Coalition for International Justice.

We owe it to the courage of the peoples of the Balkans, and their willingness to re-live their personal tragedies in order to advance the cause of justice.

And we owe it to the talented, dedicated Tribunal staff -- and to no one more than Gabrielle Kirk McDonald.

I will tell you a story. Six years ago, when I was in New York, we formed a caucus of all the women permanent representatives to the United Nations. We were not a big group -- we called ourselves the G-8. But we were determined that there be a War Crimes Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, and because so many of the crimes there involved abuses against women, we wanted there to be women judges. So we lobbied the Security Council.

I was so proud that America had a candidate who was one of the pioneer civil rights litigators in our country. And she has since become a pioneer justice for international war crimes law.

Her colleagues recognized her intelligence and courage when they elected her the Tribunal's President in 1995.

Under her leadership, the Tribunal has built a strong body of case law and precedent upon which future prosecutions for crimes against humanity, war crimes and genocide may be built.

The Tribunal has also used its unprecedented authority to try persons on all sides of the Balkan conflicts, and in so doing taken important steps toward an international system of justice that is more fair and effective.

As head of the Appeals Chamber for the Yugoslav and Rwanda tribunals, Judge McDonald made it her responsibility to see that the two bodies worked smoothly together -- and to reinforce the global nature of the precedents they have set.

And her determination to ensure fair and sensitive hearings of sex crime charges, she helped the Tribunal establish a key international precedent -- that rape is a war crime as evil, and as prosecutable, as any other.

These achievements alone would be enough to guarantee Judge McDonald a place in any
veterans by serving more patients and ensuring high-quality and timely care; improving the delivery of benefit payments for veterans; and meeting our National Shrine commitment to veterans cemeteries.

• PROMOTE THE ARTS IN AMERICA. This year President Clinton proposed to expand resources for the National Endowment for the Arts to provide support for the important cultural, educational and artistic programs for communities across America. Working together, the President and the Congress were able to increase funding for the NEA to $105 million, a $7 million boost over last year's funding level and the first significant increase in the six years since the Republicans took control of the Congress.

• MEET THE NUTRITIONAL NEEDS OF HARD-PRESSED WORKING FAMILIES. Congress has agreed to enact the President’s proposal to change the food stamps law to make it easier for 245,000 people to own a reliable car and still be eligible for food stamps. A second change in the law will help over 2 million people by ensuring that the food stamp program recognizes the high housing costs faced by many low-income working families.

• STRENGTHEN RURAL COMMUNITIES. The budget provides a $2.7 billion increase for rural development loans and grants to improve the quality of life for rural residents and diversify the rural economy. More than 1.5 million more rural residents will receive access to safe, affordable drinking water through water and wastewater loans and grants; nearly 100,000 jobs will be created or saved through $2.5 billion in guaranteed loans to rural businesses; and over 60,000 very-low to moderate income rural families will receive single-family housing loans and loan guarantees, allowing many to own their own homes for the first time.

• FIGHT TERRORISM. The budget includes $118 million for counter-terrorism, including more task force agents, technology and intelligence gathering along the northern border, enabling Treasury law enforcement to respond to unanticipated terrorist incidents, and improving the tracking of terrorist assets.

• PROVIDE DEBT RELIEF. The budget includes $448 million for the Heavily Indebted Poor Country trust fund over three years, including a $210 million supplemental request for FY 2000. Under the Cologne Debt Initiative, savings from debt relief would be directed to education, health care, AIDS prevention, and other critical needs. The budget also includes $37 million for the Tropical Forest Initiative to use debt relief funds in support of conservation and authorizes the use of IMF debt reduction to pay for debt reduction. Unsustainable debt keeps many countries in poverty.
As Prepared for Delivery

Judge McDonald, Justice Goldstone, Justices O'Connor and Ginsburg, distinguished guests, it is a great honor to have been asked to give this tribute. It is also a bit intimidating for someone who is not a lawyer and has never argued before traffic court, let alone members of the Supreme Court.

But a good cause is a mother to courage, and we have good cause to speak warmly tonight about Gabrielle Kirk McDonald and about our shared concern for the rule of law.

In recent times, that subject has been much on our minds. In China, respect for law and some individual rights is advancing-- but does not yet extend to the political arena.

In Central Europe, we have seen dramatic progress, helped along by the thousands of CEELI volunteers sent to provide technical advice and support for legal and judicial reforms.

And today, with the surrender of two Libyan suspects to Dutch authorities, we have taken an important step toward accountability for those who died on Pan Am 103.

But tonight our focus is on Judge McDonald's legacy, and our thoughts and prayers are on a small part of the world where there is no rule of law today. And that is Kosovo.

Belgrade's campaign of terror against the Kosovo Albanians is ruthless, lawless and gutless. It is an assault on the very concept of official responsibility to legal norms.

NATO is acting within the law to uphold the law. We resorted to force only after every diplomatic option was explored, multiple warnings issued, and a balanced peace plan rejected by Belgrade.

Our purposes have not changed. We seek the withdrawal of Milosevic's military, police and paramilitary forces; the return of all refugees; the deployment of an international security force; and the creation of a democratic political framework for Kosovo on the basis of the Rambouillet Accords.

We also seek to hold accountable those responsible for atrocities during this conflict. There can be no question that war crimes and crimes against humanity are being committed in Kosovo. Nor can there be doubt that the orders to carry out these acts are coming from the top.

The United States will do everything we can to support the Tribunal's effort to gather evidence and bring indictments.

We are already providing financial support for the Tribunal's investigations of atrocities in Kosovo. And we will share with the Tribunal information we ourselves gather. We are using
Good morning. Yesterday, the 106th Congress made history – when its Republican leadership finally declared themselves unable or unwilling to finish their work before facing the voters. This year marks the first time Congress has struggled into an election-year November since World War II. That’s the wrong way to make history – and it puts them on the wrong side of history. Instead of choosing the path of progress in these times of record prosperity, the Republican leaders have compiled a record of broken promises and lost opportunities.

They have decided to go home, and ask their constituents to send them back to Washington, so they can finish last year’s business next year.

With Democrats in Congress, my Administration has fought long and hard for America’s priorities, and we’ve worked in good faith with members of both parties to craft compromises we all thought were right. When Democrats reached out to the other side, we made good progress. We won new investment for America’s inner cities, rural communities and Native American reservations – and 79,000 new housing vouchers for families climbing out of poverty. We increased our investment in a clean environment, and doubled our funds for land conservation. We enacted the largest one-year increase ever requested for Veterans Affairs; and we met our commitment to global leadership in developing country debt relief.

But those successes were the exception and not the rule. More often, when we reached an agreement, the Republican leadership went back on it. When we built a bipartisan majority, the Republicans tabled it. When we’ve extended deadlines, they’ve broken them. And when we’ve challenged them to honor the people’s interests, they have instead catered to the special interests.

I couldn’t in good conscience sign a bill that took care of Congress and the White House before we took care of the American people. I couldn’t support tax cuts that would consume our entire surplus. I couldn’t ask working families to choose between education and health care, by signing a bill that funded education but blocked workplace safety standards that would prevent 300,000 on-the-job injuries a year.

If Republicans think that the American people just won’t notice that they failed to do the job, they’re wrong. Just think about what Americans lost when the Republican leadership listened to the special interests, and changed its mind on our education deal. No Head Start money for 70,000 children. No progress toward cutting class sizes for 650,000 grade-schoolers. No funds for school construction, and no action on $1 billion of urgent school repairs. No new
SECRETARY ALBRIGHT: Good afternoon. It is a pleasure to welcome Justice Arbour to the Department of State. As Chief Prosecutor of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, she has played a critical role in making that body a force for truth and accountability in the aftermath of unspeakable crimes. And she's taken on wholeheartedly the difficult, and frankly dispiriting, challenge of tracking, investigating and preparing to prosecute the evil being done to the Albanians of Kosovo.

Let me take a moment to mention what the United States is doing to help relieve the plight of Albanians in refugee camps outside Kosovo, and to help ease the pressure Macedonia is facing. I want to thank the government of Macedonia for its cooperation in handling this refugee crisis. We have seen 19,500 refugees cross the border into Macedonia in the past three days.

Macedonia has opened a new refugee camp and has agreed to create more camps. We admire what the government is doing under tremendous pressure. We in the international community must do more to help them, and the United States is prepared to do its share.

We have committed to accepting some 20,000 refugees here in the United States. Today we have determined that refugees will begin to arrive in the United States early next week. The first group will be processed at Fort Dix and then be able to join relatives or hosts around the country, where I know they will receive a warm and sympathetic welcome.

This week we have seen yet more evidence of ethnic cleansing, organized killing and the systematic rape of ethnic Albanian women and girls. And yesterday we had a particularly repulsive comment on the last subject from Deputy Prime Minister Seselj.

There should be no misunderstanding. When it comes to the commission of war crimes or crimes against humanity, "just following orders" is no defense. These are crimes for which individuals are responsible and for which individuals will be held accountable. Justice Arbour has rightly indicated that the Tribunal will follow the evidence no matter where it leads. In that, it has the full support of the United States. American personnel are assisting in the difficult work of documenting refugee charges, and doing what they can to gather supporting accounts. We worked with the Tribunal to prepare a standard questionnaire for refugee interviews, which can be used by Tribunal workers, our personnel and aid agencies.

Justice Arbour and I today discussed how the United States can provide more information to the Tribunal, and how to speed up delivery of potential evidence to The Hague. I assured her that we are asking Congress for additional resources for the Tribunal to meet new demands for investigations in Kosovo. And we discussed other needs of her investigations, which I am not going to get into, but which I assure you that the United States will do everything we possibly can to meet.

We are also thinking ahead to the Tribunal's needs after the fighting stops. We have consulted with Justice Arbour and begun planning for how we could facilitate access by Tribunal investigators to crime scenes in Kosovo.
after-school programs for 850,000 children. No new investment in training for as many as 1.2 million teachers. No new funding to strengthen accountability and turn around failing schools. No new funding for the needs of special education students, or college preparation for children at risk. And no new Pell Grants for 4 million college students who need help to stay in school.

But education was only one part of the Democratic agenda for Congress. We put forward strong proposals to raise the minimum wage, pass a strong Patients Bill of Rights and a hate crimes bill and enact targeted tax cuts that are good for children, families, seniors and small business. And we built a bipartisan coalition to pass that agenda. But the Republican leadership let special interests stand in the way of every one of those initiatives.

We fought for a Medicare prescription drug benefit, and we had the support of the American people, but the Republican leadership had the power to kill it. We had a bipartisan coalition to extend health care coverage to thousands of Americans who need it; but the Republican leadership had the power to kill it. We had the votes to pass campaign finance reform; but the Republican leadership had the power to kill it.

The leadership says they didn’t have time to complete the budget. But the leadership wasted no found time in blocking fair treatment for Latino immigrants; in blocking common-sense gun safety legislation; and filling the spending bills they did pass with political pork.

Bear in mind, almost all these initiatives had bipartisan support. But none of them made it to my desk before the Republican leadership decided to take a timeout. Why? Because the Republican leadership went behind closed doors and let the whispers of special interests drown out the voices of the American people.

The American people expect us to finish the job they sent us here to do. The Republican leadership has failed to keep its end of that bargain. As I have said repeatedly, the path to progress is one we have to walk together. And when Republicans are ready to work again, we’ll be ready to work with them.

Thank you, and now I’d like to turn it over to Senator Daschle.
Government links does not imply endorsement of contents.
GOOD afternoon. By now I think everyone is aware that Congress intends to pass a longer-term continuing resolution to keep the government running and then leave Washington until after Election Day. When the fiscal year ended a month ago, I signed several continuing resolutions to give Congress time to finish its work. When that didn't produce any progress, we went to day-to-day resolutions. But now it's clear—this Congress is unwilling or unable to finish the job before Election Day. Instead, they're going to leave town, and leave our government running on empty, our national budget unfinished and the American people's business undone.

I'm disappointed that the Republican leadership has let it come to this. And I am disappointed that time and again they chose to take care of special interests before taking care of the American people. Members of both parties worked together in good faith to craft compromises we all thought were right for America. But too many times, the Republican leadership bowed to the will of the special interests and pulled back from agreements we had reached, or refused even to meet with our negotiators.

Now a Congress that could have been remembered as one of our most productive will be remembered not for the business it finished, but the unfinished business it left behind. Today the Republican leadership walked away from its promises to our children; from its commitment to our seniors; and even from its own Members of Congress who worked in good faith to finish the job.

Just last week, we reached agreement on a bipartisan education budget that would have been a tremendous achievement for America's kids. But the Republican leadership listened to the special interests, and changed its mind. That means no new funding for school construction. No support for our initiative to cut class sizes by hiring 100,000 new teachers. No investment in teacher quality. And no commitment to strengthening accountability and turning around failing schools.

A bipartisan coalition in Congress was ready to raise the minimum wage, pass a strong Patients Bill of Rights and a hate crimes bill and enact tax cuts that are good for children, families, seniors and small business. But the Republican leadership let special interests kill off every one of these initiatives. And they blocked bipartisan initiatives to help millions of Americans get the health care coverage they need.

ed. coalition
labor/pro coalition
civil rights/immigrant

Congress could have voted this session to enact common-sense gun safety laws; strengthen Medicare; and provide a voluntary prescription drug benefit to America’s seniors. [Congress could have enacted campaign finance reform and strengthened our fight to keep kids off tobacco.] Congress could have responded to the 49 governors who asked it to show strong support for Americorps and the Corporation for National Service. But the leadership didn’t think those American priorities were worth pursuing.

They say Congress just didn’t have time to complete a budget that meets America’s priorities and keeps our economic progress on track. I disagree. I’ve been signing continuing resolutions for a month to give them more time. Instead, they used the time to block fair treatment for Latino immigrants; to try to stop new worker safety rules that would prevent 300,000 on-the-job injuries a year; and to fill the spending bills they did pass with unprecedented political pork.

Bear in mind, every initiative I’ve named has bipartisan support. But none of them made it to my desk before the Republican leadership decided to take a timeout. Why? Because the Republican leadership went behind closed doors and let the voices of special interests drown out the concerns of real Americans.

If they think no one outside of Washington will notice, I believe they’re wrong. And if I were a member of Congress, I wouldn’t want to go home and ask people to send me back to Washington so I could finish last year’s work next year. The American people understand that bipartisanship is more than a campaign slogan—it’s the experience of staying on the job, day in and day out, nights and weekends, to get the people’s business done.

As I have said repeatedly, the path to progress is one we have to walk together. I don’t believe the American people sent us here just to give up and go home. I still believe we can do better than that—and I will be here ready to work whenever the Congress returns.

Thank you.
THE PRESIDENT: Good afternoon. This morning I had planned on coming here this afternoon to share good news about bipartisan progress on the budget. Our team worked all weekend and late, late into the night last night, indeed, into the early morning hours, to fashion a good-faith agreement with compromises on both sides that provided for the largest increased investment ever in the education of our children. We thought we had that agreement.

But instead of honoring it, the Republican leadership came back this afternoon and ripped it apart. Why? Because some special interest lobbyists insisted on it. They've insisted on a provision that would undermine the health and safety of millions of workers.

Six hundred thousand people lose time from work each year because of repetitive stress injuries on the job. Injuries that cost American businesses about $50 billion a year. Our proposal would save these businesses $9 billion a year and save 300,000 workers the pain and suffering associated with the injuries. That's the cashier at the neighborhood grocery store;
SECRETARY ALBRIGHT: I am very pleased to have a chance again to meet with Foreign Minister Fischer, this time in his role as host for the EU Presidency, and with Commission Vice President Brittan. I would like to congratulate them for a well-managed EU Presidency at this pivotal moment in the Balkans and for all of Europe. We have spent an inordinate amount of time discussing this subject, not only here, but in daily telephone calls and I appreciate very much Foreign Minister Fischer's role.

This morning’s ministerial was productive and reflected our common vision of strengthening the U.S.-EU partnership for the new century and our determination to build a Trans-Atlantic community that is fully united, democratic, and at peace. And we plan at the upcoming Summit to issue a declaration on future relations.

This morning we confirmed our intention to improve our ability to identify potential differences at an early stage before they become major disputes. We discussed, as well, the next steps on Kosovo as we look forward, hopefully, to a new phase of return and reconstruction. We also recognize the need to address the root causes of instability in Southeast Europe and to this end we discussed the proposed Stability Pact for Southeast Europe and hope to reach an early agreement on the text.

On the trade side, we continue to move forward in the Trans-Atlantic economic partnership which is aimed at reducing trade barriers, improving regulatory cooperation and promoting coordination in most multi-lateral negotiations. We remain committed to close U.S.-EU cooperation and working with Russia and Ukraine to address their economic, political and social problems. We are especially pleased with the cooperative programs already begun in Ukraine on market reform, civil society development and other important areas.

All in all we had an excellent session and I also would like to associate myself with the very strong words that the Foreign Minister used about the situation of the arrests in Iran of members of the Jewish community. We discussed it and we agreed that it was unacceptable.

I would very much like to express my gratitude toward our German hosts for a very good meeting. Thank you very much.

[End of Document]
the office worker who works on a keyboard eight hours a day; the
nursing home worker who cares for our seniors.

Once again the Republican leadership has let the
whispers of the special interests drown out the voices of the
American people. Families should not have to choose between
worker safety and their children's education.

We were on the verge of passing a landmark education
bill, to hire highly-qualified teachers to reduce class size in
the early grades, to repair and modernize crumbling schools, to
expand after-school programs, invest in teacher quality and
strengthen accountability to turn around failing schools. With
the largest student enrollment in history, this budget would have
honored our obligation to our children by investing more in our
schools and demanding more from them.

If we could get this agreement, it would be a great
bipartisan achievement. It was negotiated until the early
morning hours by those authorized by the leaders in both parties
to negotiate the agreement. But the Republican leadership is on
the verge of abandoning it, to put special interests ahead of the
children's education. That is a mistake.

But make no mistake, this is not about a lack of
bipartisanship. By working long and hard, we have reached a
bipartisan consensus on the education bill. We also have
bipartisan agreement on campaign finance reform, hate crimes
legislation, raising the minimum wage, the patients' bill of
rights -- all being blocked by the Republican leadership.
Congress is now 30 days into the new fiscal year without a
budget. As I have often said, there is a right and a wrong way
to conduct budget negotiations. When we have worked together, we
have unfailingly made progress. When there is a genuine spirit
of cooperation and compromise, we can accomplish great things for
our people.

Last week, we came together with a forward-looking bill
to fund our veterans and housing programs. Saturday, I signed
legislation to fund our agriculture programs and provide vital
assistance to farmers, ranchers and rural communities. These
bills didn't have everything I wanted. They had some things I
opposed. But we can't make the perfect the enemy of good
progress. On balance, the bills were good for the American
people; they were negotiated in good faith and I signed them.

There is still more work to be done on education and on
other priorities. We need to make headway on strengthening
Medicare, providing needed resources to teaching hospitals, rural
hospitals, home health agencies and other providers, not just to
HMOs.

I also believe we can have a tax bill that meets the
test of fairness to children, seniors, millions of Americans
I think on the second question, there have been a number of discussions over the last weeks when Mr. Talbott has been in Moscow, in my discussions on the phone with Foreign Minister Ivanov, including here, general discussions about whether and how Russian forces will be a part of this, but these are at this stage general discussions.

QUESTION: One of the issues apparently with Russia was the question of how to refer to the Tribunal. Can you give us some sense of what the discussion was that you had and how do you interpret the meaning of the language you have adopted? Does it give the Tribunal freedom with everything that you know and it says it has to do?

SECRETARY ALBRIGHT: We feel very comfortable with the way the War Crimes Tribunal was mentioned and, in fact, one of the other parts as you know about UN resolutions is the question of what is the first word. And there was some thought that it would be less strong than what it ended up, and it ends up "demands." So as you know that's as strong as it gets, and it demands full cooperation by all concerned and it allows the Tribunal to do its work.

QUESTION: I know you have been focusing on events here, but do you know if Milosevic has given the order to his commanders in Kosovo to withdraw?

SECRETARY ALBRIGHT: I do not know the answer to that. We would expect him to do that as quickly as possible and I would think that the message from here, that you have the G-8 Foreign Ministers agreeing, that this should happen and that a sequence has been worked out. Unless he is totally tone-deaf, he should be getting the message that it is time to withdraw.

QUESTION: A philosophical as well as a diplomatic question. The UN was by-passed when this conflict began, for obvious reasons. How important is it now that the UN will be ensuring or will be giving its imprimatur to the peace. And, I know you don't like historical questions and you've been very busy today, but have you taken any lessons, early ones, from the way this conflict started, the way it's been waged and now in the way in which it appears to be ending?

SECRETARY ALBRIGHT: Well, first of all let me say that the UN is going to be very much a part of this phase and a great deal of this resolution is drafted in such a way that it makes clear that the UN is, first of all it will be passed as a UN Resolution, but then in terms of their responsibility for the civilian implementation. Just for the record, I did call the Secretary General about an hour ago to tell him we had gotten this far on it and he was very pleased and we looked forward to cooperation.

I don't want to get overly professorial, because otherwise we will be here fifty-minutes on the lessons, but what I find very interesting in this and I clearly in my own way will be drawing this together, is that here we are working, first of all the nineteen democracies of NATO and that in itself has been a very exciting way of watching democracies operate, some of them that have divided governments, coalition governments and all of them very conscious of their responsibilities as elected officials, especially the parliamentary democracies. I have also been very intrigued, as some of you know I studied a lot about how various European organizations work together and how international organizations work together, and you can see as a part of this that practically everybody has been heard from. That various organizations have fulfilled some of their responsibilities already and some of them are going to be called upon to cooperate with each other as we go into the implementation phase.

I have also been very pleased in watching how countries have in fact worked together and in that I would like to specifically note the role that Russia has played. Despite the fact that clearly we have had differences over a number of issues, I think that the partnership
without health coverage and small business. Instead of meeting that test, or even meeting with us, the Republican leadership has crafted their own partisan tax package and passed it on a largely party line vote.

Again, we have accomplished so much in this session of Congress in a bipartisan fashion. It has been one of the most productive sessions. But the most important legislation is still out there -- the education of our children. Plus the opportunity to raise the minimum wage, pass the New Markets legislation, and provide needed tax relief, as well as to provide fairness to our immigrants and invest in the health care of our people.

I hope we can do this. It's not too late, and we can still work together to make an agreement. But it has to be one for the people and not the special interests. Thank you.

Q So what's the next step, sir? The election is a week and a day away -- what do you do next?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. They were up until 2:30 a.m. in the morning and I came in this morning, they said we had an agreement; Senator Harkin called me absolutely ecstatic about the agreement. We had a good-faith compromise on this rule on labor stress injuries which would have allowed us to proceed, but would have delayed enforcement until the next election, so if they win and they want to reassess the worker safety thing, they'd have the opportunity to do it. But otherwise it would go into effect. It was an honorable compromise. The Republicans and the Democrats agreed on it, and then the Republican leadership blew it up. That's all I can tell you.

And when you look at what's been done in this bill for education, the idea that the bill would be wrecked over this is unbelievable to me.

Q Mr. President, anything new on the Latino immigration fairness act? Is there any progress, or is that completely stopped?

THE PRESIDENT: No -- well, we've made some progress, but it's not nearly what we think ought to be done, and we're continuing to work on it. I think, frankly, what happens to it depends on whether we can get agreement on the larger bill. There are lots of provisions in there; we're working on it.

Q -- spending bill?

THE PRESIDENT: I haven't decided yet. The bill itself is all right, but there's something that strikes me as a little wrong in taking care of the Congress and the White House when we haven't taken care of the American people. I just haven't decided what to do about it yet.
discussions about how to include the G-8 principles as well as the Chernomyrdin-Ahtisaari document in a way that fit in with UN-ese, and decided that the best thing to do was to have appendices to the resolution and they have the same force as the resolution itself.

**QUESTION:** Could you tell us what the other appendix is about?

**SECRETARY ALBRIGHT:** One appendix is the G-8 principles and the other is the Chernomyrdin-Ahtisaari document.

**QUESTION:** Compared to what you said with what Mr. Ivanov said, it seems like you are saying two different things. Ivanov seems to be suggesting that things are still up in the air until they get to the UN. Can you explain what seems to me to be a discrepancy between what you are both saying about what the security force will be like on the ground?

**SECRETARY ALBRIGHT:** I think as a statement of fact we have already made, if you look at the numbers of the security force and the fact that NATO will have the largest component of it, obviously there will be a NATO commander, but what is still in discussion is who else will be a part of it, and how those forces will be related to the "NATO at the core." But it does say, makes quite clear in the appendix that it has a unified command and control part of it and therefore whatever other forces will then be integrated with that.

**QUESTION:** But in the final analysis it's true then that the resolution will not be adopted until after there is a bombing pause?

**SECRETARY ALBRIGHT:** As it has worked out, I think that we have worked very hard on the sequencing of it, which is that the resolution is here presented what I would imagine as its final form. I have to say that as a former Permanent Representative at the UN, it doesn't happen very often that you get a document that has been drafted by foreign ministers, so chances are that it will be adopted as it stands. At the same time, the military-technical agreement has to go forward and then as a part of that there has to be the beginning of the withdrawal. It has to be verifiable. There will be a pause and then there will be the final adoption. As you know in New York it will go into "blue" so that it will be in its permanent form and then it will be voted on.

But all of this we talked about at great length and tried to figure out simultaneity in all its languages.

**QUESTION:** Has anyone yet been in touch with the Chinese about this, and if not who will it be? Will it be President Ahtisaari who is there now? Does he have a copy of this and what's the timetable for informing the Chinese and making sure they won't oppose this in the Security Council?

**SECRETARY ALBRIGHT:** President Ahtisaari is in China and he has obviously been in touch. Chancellor Schroeder has been in touch with the Chinese previously and it is my understanding that others have been in touch with the Chinese and we will have been also. And meetings have begun in an informal way in New York already.

**QUESTION:** Two questions. One on the sequencing, what is the minimum amount of time that you envision elapsing between the first sign of Serb withdrawal and a bombing pause? The second question. I know that the Russian Foreign Minister said that the participation of Russian troops would be decided at a later time. Did he indicate to you informally in any way, Russia's willingness to provide troops and in what numbers?

**SECRETARY ALBRIGHT:** First of all, I don't want to give you a minimum time because this is something that will be based on a military assessment when they see a verifiable number of the Serb forces departing. And I think all of us would obviously like to have this happen as soon as possible, but I'm not going to give you a minimum amount of time.
Q Mr. President, why do you think Congress, congressional Republicans should apologize to the country about impeachment?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, first of all, I have nothing to say about that except I was promised faithfully that that interview would be done, released after the election, and I believed it. And the only thing I can say is I doubt if you've read the whole interview, or you wouldn't have asked the question in that way, and I would just urge the American people, if they're hearing all this talk, to read exactly what was said. But I don't think it's appropriate for me to discuss any of this until I'm doing the wrap-up on my administration. Right now I think the American people should be focused on this election.

Q Mr. President, you've had some discussions today about the Oregon assisted suicide law. Would you sign a tax or spending bill that would block that Oregon law?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, you know, I don't support assisted suicide, but the people of Oregon did. My concern, frankly, right now is whether the bill, as written, would have a chilling effect on doctors writing medication for pain relief on terminally-ill patients. And I'm concerned, therefore, about the way it's worded.

You don't want to -- whatever your opinions about assisted suicide and whether the people ought to have a right to vote on it in a given state, we certainly don't want to do anything that would in any way undermine the willingness of physicians to write pain relief medication for fear they'll later be prosecuted if the patient dies.

So I'm a little -- I'm concerned about that, and I know Senator Wyden is filibustering the bill and maybe we'll work that out, too, before this is over. I hope we can.

Q Do you now believe that Yemen will give American investigators all the access they need to witnesses and suspects in the USS Cole investigation, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: I hope so. They were just great, the Yemenis were, in the beginning of this, the first phase of this work. And I think -- there have been difficulties now, I think not because they don't want to find out who did it, but perhaps because they are worried about having America deploy more resources in Yemen to do the investigation that they are. I think they feel comfortable that they can do it.

But what I argued to President Salih was that we ought to have a genuine joint investigation -- that we have FBI people working with folks all over the world, in all different kinds of countries. When the embassies were blown up in Africa, and both the nations involved, Kenya and Tanzania, we worked very closely
SECRETARY OF STATE MADELINE K. ABLIGHT
Press Conference Following G-8 Foreign Minister's Meeting
Cologne, Germany, June 8, 1999
As released by the Office of the Spokesman
U.S. Department of State

SECRETARY ABLIGHT: I am glad to be with all of you and especially those of you who have been traveling with me. Let me say that today's agreement by the G-8 Foreign Ministers on the text of a UN resolution related to the crisis in Kosovo is a major step towards bringing this confrontation to an end on acceptable terms.

I would like to thank all my colleagues, Foreign Ministers, for the hard work that went into this and especially the Russian Foreign Minister, for the partnership that he made so clear in seeking this peaceful resolution. I think those of you that heard him in this press conference understand how Russia has also worked in order to bring this crisis to an end. The resolution is fully consistent with the terms of the Chernomyrdin-Ahtisaari agreement and with the conditions established by NATO and the international community.

The major elements include a requirement that all Serb forces leave. That an international security presence be deployed with substantial NATO participation and a unified command. The establishment of an international civilian authority is also called for to assist the Kosovars as they prepare for democratic self-government. It is our understanding that the resolution will be co-sponsored by all G-8 members who serve on the Security Council and the others who are not on the Security Council, such as Japan, have already indicated that they will co-sponsor.

We will move quickly to gain support from other Council members and look for action in New York on the resolution as soon as possible. At the same time it is essential that negotiations for a military-technical agreement resume. The regime in Belgrade should stop shilly-shallying around--in case that's hard to translate: stalling. It should proceed to implement the principles incorporated in this draft resolution and approved by the Serb Parliament last week. Each day of denial leads only to another day's destruction and another day of delay in preparing for the return of refugees and displaced to their homes.

NATO is interested in deeds not words. We must see a demonstrable and verifiable start towards the rapid withdrawal of all Serb forces. Until that happens, we intend to keep up both the military and diplomatic pressure and at the same time we are taking a longer view.

Tomorrow the G-8 will resume its meetings, including a discussion of a strategy for fully integrating Southeast Europe into the continent's democratic mainstream. We want to make sure that this confrontation does not serve simply as the prelude to another. We want to end this conflict and establish a new foundation for a lasting peace.

The bottom line in assessing the last twenty-four hours here is that we got what we came for and I congratulate all of my G-8 colleagues and join them in the hope that our deliberations have in fact contributed to the cause of peace and justice in Kosovo.

I'll be glad to take your questions.

QUESTION: Not to quibble, but the "NATO at its core, NATO in charge," that isn't in the body of the resolution? It's an annex? And if that's true, legally speaking does an annex have as much force? Are you comfortable with that as you would be if it were in the resolution itself?

SECRETARY ABLIGHT: Yes. It was decided. We went through a lot of different
with the local law enforcement officials and we conducted a genuine joint operation.

We had quite a long discussion about it, the President and I did, on Saturday, I believe. And I hope that we can work it out, because I do believe that they want to know who did it and I know that we have to find out who did it. There are some promising leads out there, we just need to get on it as quickly as possible because the problem in these things is that the trail can get cold. So all I can tell you is we're working very hard and I'm quite hopeful.

Q -- going to California, which other states do you intend to visit during the last days of the campaign?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I'm not sure yet. We're working on a number of different options, and I want to do whatever will be most helpful. I know I'll go back to New York once. But I don't know what else we're going to do. We're working it out, and I think, really, since I'm not involved in the day-to-day operations, don't have access to the latest polls and all that, I -- except indirectly -- I think that that's a call others have to make. But we'll make a decision and do the best we can.

Q Mr. President, --

Q -- going to do?

THE PRESIDENT: Finish the business here. That's the most important thing. We've got to finish our business here. You know, I'm just sure that we have bipartisan agreement not only on the Education-Labor bill, but in these other areas we can get it if the pressure from the interest groups on the leadership of the majority party in Congress don't thwart it. So we've just got to keep working at it, and that's what I intend to do.

Thank you.

END 5:03 P.M. EST
SECRETARY ALBRIGHT: Thank you.

[End of Document]
Good afternoon. By now I think everyone is aware that Congress intends to leave Washington until after Election Day, with our government running on temporary funding resolutions, our national budget unfinished and the American people's business left undone. [TK-do we need to say anything about why we're allowing that to happen, or can we just let it pass?]

I am disappointed in the Republic leadership. Let's be clear--we did not get to this point because there is too much partisanship in Washington. We're here because there was too little leadership on the part of senior Republicans who chose to take care of special interests before taking care of the American people. On issue after issue, Republicans and Democrats worked together in good faith to craft compromises we all thought were right for America. But again and again, the Republican leadership bowed to the will of the special interests and pulled back from agreements we had reached, or refused even to meet with our negotiators.

Unless they have a change of heart after the election, a Congress that could have been remembered as one of our most productive instead will be remembered only for what it didn't do--and the unfinished business it leaves behind.

The Republican leadership walked away from a bipartisan education budget that would have been a tremendous achievement for America's kids. Instead, they leave town having provided no new funding for school construction. No support for our initiative to cut class sizes by hiring 100,000 new teachers. No investment in teacher quality. And no commitment to strengthening accountability and turning around failing schools.

The Republican leadership allowed special interests to kill off a strong Patients Bill of Rights. They walked away from the effort to provide a voluntary prescription drug benefit to America's seniors. And they blocked bipartisan initiatives that would help millions of Americans get the health care they need.

The Republican leadership turned its back on a bipartisan coalition that was ready to raise the minimum wage, pass a hate crimes bill and enact tax cuts that are good for children, families, seniors and small business.

The Republican leadership didn't think Congress had time to complete a budget that meets America's priorities and keeps our economic progress on track. But they had plenty of time to block fair treatment for Latino immigrants; to try to stop new worker safety rules that...
would prevent 300,000 on-the-job injuries a year; and to fill the spending bills they did pass with unprecedented political pork.

Bear in mind, every initiative I’ve named has bipartisan support. But none of them made it to my desk before the Republican leadership decided to take a timeout. Why? Because the Republican leadership went behind closed doors and let the voices of special interests drown out the concerns of real Americans, and they think no one outside of Washington will notice.

Now, I think they’re wrong. If I were a member of Congress, I wouldn’t want to go home and ask people to send me back to Washington so I could finish last year’s work next year. And I think the American people understand that bipartisanship is more than a campaign slogan — it’s the experience of staying on the job, day in and day out, nights and weekends, to do the people’s business.

As I have said repeatedly, the path to progress is one we have to walk together. I don’t believe the American people sent us here just to give up and go home. I still believe we can do better than that — and I will be here ready to work whenever the Congress returns. But the Republican leadership will have to accept that we can only do it together.

Thank you.
PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON
STATEMENT ON THE BUDGET
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON, DC
November 1, 2000

Good afternoon. I had hoped, with less than a week to go before Election Day, to come here today to tell the American people that we were making bipartisan progress toward completing a budget that meets America's priorities and keeps our economic progress on track.

Instead, all I can say right now is that the Republican leadership in Congress has again chosen to take care of special interests before considering the interests of the American people. They've walked away from bipartisan proposals to provide prescription drugs for seniors, help fund school construction, and increase the minimum wage—because some special interest lobbyists said no. They've allowed us to go a month into the new fiscal year without a budget—because they don't want to make compromises. And now, just as the leadership is about to allow special interests to kill off the bipartisan Patients Bill of Rights, they have put forward a Medicare bill that spends four dollars on HMOs for every one dollar it spends on Medicare beneficiaries.

Everyone agrees that we need to strengthen Medicare by increasing payments to hospitals, doctors and community health providers—so that they can afford to give Medicare patients top-quality care. But the leadership's proposal is a massive give-away to the HMOs, tens of billions of dollars at the expense of teaching and rural hospitals, home health agencies and other providers who really need the help. And it will allow HMOs to take this new money and still refuse to cover Medicare patients.

At the same time, the Republican leadership is blocking bipartisan initiatives that would help millions of Americans get the health care they need.

Congressional Republicans have refused to extend transitional Medicaid coverage already in place for people moving from welfare to work. That would leave almost half of people who have worked hard and gotten off welfare with no health insurance at all.

They have excluded a proposal to expand health care coverage for children with disabilities, even though it has 137 co-sponsors in the House.

They're refusing to allow states to use schools and day care centers to reach more of the 6.3 million uninsured children who are eligible for some kind of health care coverage. That proposal comes from a bipartisan bill with 142 co-sponsors.
And the Republican leadership has blocked efforts to offer health care coverage for children and pregnant women who are legal immigrants. Even Governor Jeb Bush of Florida supports that bill. But the Republican leadership went behind closed doors, ignoring the work of their own colleagues, and let the voices of special interests drown out the concerns of real Americans.

Now, none of these proposals is new. All of them were in the budget that Vice President Gore and I presented in February and revised this summer. And bear in mind, this isn’t about partisan bickering. Every one of these initiatives has bipartisan support. But none of them is in the bill passed by the House and now before the Senate.

It’s time for the Republican leadership to come where the rest of Congress is. A bipartisan coalition stands ready to pass an education budget, to raise the minimum wage, to pass a patients’ bill of rights, a hate crimes bill and a tax bill that is good for children, families, seniors and small business. On issue after issue, Republicans and Democrats worked out compromises we all thought were right for America. But the Republican leadership bowed to the will of the special interests and pulled back from the deal we made – because they think no one outside of Washington will notice.

Now, I think they’re wrong. If I were a member of Congress, I wouldn’t want to go home and ask people to send me back to Washington so I could finish last year’s work next year. And I think the American people understand that bipartisanship is more than a campaign slogan – it’s the experience of staying on the job, day in and day out, nights and weekends, to do the people’s business.

As I have said repeatedly, the path to progress is one we have to walk together. I don’t believe the American people sent us here just to give up and go home. And I still believe we can do better than that. But the Republican leadership will have to accept that we can only do it together.

Thank you.
has been joined by voteswap2000.com and nadertrader.org After five days, voteswap2000 claimed to have arranged about 4,600 trades, including 200 in Pennsylvania.

(Monday night, voteswap2000.com posted this note:  "We have just received word from the California secretary of state that offering to 'broker the exchange of votes' is a violation of California state law.' The sponsors said they would turn off their software and seek legal advice; other vote-swapping sites were still operating.)

To set up a swap, a voter provides a name, e-mail address and how he or she wants to vote, and the software program sends the e-mail address of a "match." The voter then decides whether to swap.

There are no guarantees the swappers will follow through. Quinnan and Gibbard, who have only traded e-mail messages, said in interviews that they trusted each other. But, as the bulletin-board messages on voteexchange.com illustrate, not everyone is so willing to believe.

Jim Cody, a Los Angeles freelance Web designer, said he created voteswap2000 after reading Raskin's article. A Democrat, Cody was concerned about reports of Nader's sudden surge in some swing states.

The Nader campaign does not support the Web sites.

Gerald Pomper, a Rutgers University professor, who writes on presidential elections, said of swapping: "It raises all kinds of moral questions. Why would the Nader people, who hold this view of themselves as holier than thou, why would they ever do this?"

END
It's a shooting war over Pennsylvania's hunting voters
By Sandy Grady
Knight Ridder Newspapers
PITTSBURGH They're out there stalking the misty woodlands in their orange vests, toting shotguns and trying to
make a seductive, rattling sound like a sexed-up gobbler. Forget the
World Series or Super Bowl. In these western Pennsylvania hills,
those are triffes compared to opening of turkey-hunting season.
But the guys in orange vests have another target in mind
Al Gore, caricatured as an elitist liberal who'd rip away then guns.
That's the scrawny message of the National Rifle
Association, which blankets TV airwaves: "Vote Freedom First!
Don't risk having President Gore take away your gun."
Sometimes you'd think Charleston Heston, the gun-lobby
Moses, is running against Gore instead of George W. Bush. Heston
brings Pennsylvania rallies to their feet when he intones, "They'll
take this gun from my cold, dead hand!"

Think of Heston and Gore grappling over a musket in a scene from "The Patriot." If Pennsylvania is the key state of the
Bush vs. Gore showdown, the War over Guns could be oddly
pivotal.
In a way, it's a battle for the Angry Blue-Collar White
Guy vote which pits two powerhouse forces, the National Rifle
Association against the AFL-CIO unions.
In another dynamic, the struggle matches gun-loving
hunters of western and central Pennsylvania against Philadelphia
and suburbs, where guns explode in crime.
It's political lore ever since gun owners knocked popular
Joe Clark from his
and suburbs, where guns explode in crime.
Don't risk having President Gore take away your
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Draft: REPUBLICAN LEADERSHIP MEDICARE PLAN: 
REJECTS BIPARTISAN POLICIES THAT REFLECT PEOPLE’S PRIORITIES

REPUBLICAN LEADERSHIP CRAFTED PARTISAN MEDICARE PLAN

- **Republican Leadership – Not Bipartisan -- Proposal.** Rather than conducting a bipartisan, bicameral conference, the Republican Leadership met behind closed doors to develop their Medicare / Medicaid legislation. Not only were neither Congressional Democrats nor the Administration involved, but there was no Committee process and no input by Senate Democrats. There has not been a single meeting to develop a bipartisan bill, only a “listening session,” and the Republican Leadership has adopted a “take it or leave it” approach.

- **No New Demands – Only Bipartisan Priorities.** The President and Congressional Democrats have bipartisan support behind all of their recommended changes to this Medicare / Medicaid bill which have been clearly articulated – and rejected -- time after time.

INCLUDES UNACCOUNTABLE, UNWARRANTED HMO PAYMENT INCREASES

- **Over One-Third of Allocation to HMOs.** The Republican plan increases payments to Medicare HMOs by $11 billion over 5 years and $34 billion over 10 years – despite the facts that only 16 percent of Medicare beneficiaries are enrolled in HMOs and that HMOs are, according to experts, already overpaid.

- **No Meaningful Guarantee of Increased Access to Plans.** Republicans rely on a “trickle down” approach of giving large sums of money to HMOs and asking – not requiring -- that they stay in Medicare. Their bill includes no guarantee that plans will not drop out of communities or Medicare altogether when it is no longer in their interest to remain

EXCLUDES BIPARTISAN BENEFICIARY AND PROVIDER POLICIES

- **Excludes Beneficiary Policies in Bipartisan Commerce Committee Plan.** The Republican Leadership chose to reject most of the beneficiary provisions designed and supported unanimously by House Commerce Committee Republicans and Democrats. These provisions altogether cost only $2.7 billion over 5 years – one-fourth of what the Republican Leadership plan spends on unwarranted managed care policies. Excluded provisions include:
  
  • **Improving access to cost-sharing assistance for low-income Medicare beneficiaries.** This bipartisan proposal would help millions of poor and near-poor seniors reduce their Medicare premiums and cost sharing by making it easier to enroll in assistance programs. About 55 percent of Medicare beneficiaries eligible for this assistance do not receive it. These beneficiaries tend to be older women living alone and Hispanic elderly who had difficulty navigating the long and complex applications.

  • **Improving enrollment of uninsured children through schools and other sites.** While the Children’s Health Insurance Program contributed to 1 million drop in the number of uninsured children, 6.3 million uninsured children are potentially eligible for CHIP and
JUSTICE ARBOUR: Well, I think the first thing I'm going to say about deterrence -- and I don't want to sound facetious -- but essentially, deterrence, if it works, is very difficult to measure. It's measuring what did not occur.

Now, frankly, in the current environment, it's pretty hard to imagine that considerably worse atrocities could have been perpetrated. So having said that, I can assure you that one of the main subjects of discussion that I raised -- not only here but in all the capitals that I visited recently -- is the need for an immediate, very robust arrest initiative in Bosnia. I believe that the strongest deterrent message that could have been sent into Kosovo, and that could still be sent, would be the immediate apprehension, not only of the remaining indictees who are publicly indicted, but of the persons who are the subject of sealed indictment.

I believe that this would bring an air of reality to those who are in positions of accountability in Kosovo who may be associated with the perpetration of the crimes that, by credible accounts, appear to be committed now. The mere issuance of indictments in a country that has never executed any of our arrest warrants in the past, frankly, would serve only as a very hypothetical or a marginal deterrent. I believe that what will show -- or I think could have a very immediate impact -- would be the demonstration that we have the capacity to investigate and we have partners who have the political will and the operational skills to execute arrest warrants even in hostile environments.

So I am calling -- and I've called in the past -- but I think now the time is absolutely critical to see very robust action on the outstanding warrants.

QUESTION: Justice Arbour, in terms of your investigation so far into alleged war crimes in Kosovo, have you been concerned or frustrated with the length of time it's taken to get information from the United States and other allies? Has that been a concern for you at all?

JUSTICE ARBOUR: Well, everyone is in a hurry. I mean, there's no question that we would like to access the largest number of pieces and to have the capacity to process this information.

As I said, I think we've now put in place mechanisms that allow us, in partnership with many others who are in the field in Albania and in Macedonia, to try to process refugee accounts and, from our point of view, select those who will provide the best base for a court case that will be reflective of the magnitude of what has transpired.

Other pieces of information are considerably more difficult to access, and these are those that will support our investigative effort on the command and control both on the police, military, and political level. We have long-standing relationships with information providers. We are now looking at trying to accelerate the flow of that kind of information and the quality of the product. Of course, we're doing so at a time where the collection capacity of all these potential providers is taxed by the need for them to collect information relevant to their efforts in the region.

So we are, of course, competing with other interests at a time when we're trying to get access for information for our purposes. It's a dialogue and a partnership that we have to maintain.

SECRETARY ALBRIGHT: Let me just add to that, we obviously had this discussion about the importance of our cooperation on this. I assured Justice Arbour that we would do everything we can to be as cooperative as possible. We have already, obviously, turned over a great deal of material and have established a way of working with the War Crimes Tribunal, and we will continue to do so, because of our support for the work that Justice Arbour is doing and the War Crimes Tribunal is doing.

QUESTION: Just to go back to the war criminals in Bosnia for a minute, what are you told
Medicaid. This proposal would give states the option to enroll uninsured children in Medicaid in schools, child care referral centers and other sites where these uninsured children are likely to be. Over half of parents believe that this presumptive eligibility option is the best way to encourage enrollment. Since an estimated 4 million uninsured children are in the school lunch program, allowing schools to help enroll children in health insurance can have a great impact. Not only does this proposal have bipartisan Commerce Committee support, but is in a bipartisan bill with 142 cosponsors (HR 827).

- **Restoring Medicaid and CHIP eligibility for children and pregnant women.** Even though legal immigrants pay taxes like other citizens, their children and pregnant women are not eligible for health insurance through Medicaid or CHIP for 5 years. This inequity created by welfare reform contributed to a 22 percent decline in Medicaid/CHIP coverage of legal immigrant children between 1995 and 1999. Nearly half of immigrant children lack of regular source of health care, often ending up in expensive emergency rooms. Not only does expending coverage to legal immigrant pregnant women and children have the bipartisan Commerce Committee approval, but Governors Jeb Bush, Whitman, Cellucci, Mayor Giuliani, and most major health and state associations support it.

- **Extending Medicaid for people moving from welfare to work.** Created in 1988 but expiring in 2002, transitional Medicaid allows people who have increased income due to increased work to temporarily keep health coverage even though they are no longer income-eligible. These people leaving welfare often are in entry-level jobs that do not offer health insurance to new, low-wage or part-time workers. However, Medicaid appears to help prevent many of these workers from becoming uninsured. A recent survey found that nearly half of former welfare recipients had Medicaid coverage. This bipartisan proposal extends this coverage option for another year.

- **Waiving Medicare waiting period for people with Lou Gehrig's Disease (ALS).** About 30,000 people have ALS and 5,000 new cases are diagnosed each year. While this disease usually qualifies these people for Medicare, they often do not survive the 24-month waiting period for this coverage. The median survival after diagnosis is 19 months, and the financial costs of this disease may exceed $200,000 per year in its advanced stages. This proposal, to waive the 24-month waiting period for Medicare coverage, has bipartisan support in both the House Commerce and Senate Finance Committee and 281 cosponsors in the House (HR 353) and 28 in the Senate (S 1074).

- **Excludes Bipartisan Family Opportunity Act for Children with Disabilities.** Children with disabilities have special health care needs; they are three times more likely to be ill and use five times the number of hospital days as other children. Because private insurance is often inaccessible or unaffordable, over 60 percent of the thousands of parents of children with special needs children are turning down jobs, raises, and overtime to keep their income low enough that their children qualify for Medicaid. This bill would establish a new Medicaid buy-in option for children with disabilities in families with income up to 300 percent of poverty ($42,000 for a family of three). This bill which costs $2.1 billion over 5 years – less than one-fifth of the managed care investment – has 76 cosponsors in the Senate (S 2274) and 137 cosponsors in the House (HR 4825).
mentioned, there are many interviews taking place of the refugees that are coming out. I have been asked a number of times by my colleagues -- other foreign ministers -- whether we actually have numbers that would indicate what we're talking about. We only do know -- and Justice Arbour can speak to this also -- as the people come out -- as the refugees come across the border, there are very few men of the age between 18 and 60. We do not have numbers.

I don't know if you want to speak to this at all.

JUSTICE ARBOUR: Yes, I think that what's in the sort of open source information, inferences can be drawn. We are now very actively involved in trying to develop court products; that is, witness statements from persons who will show a willingness to testify. This is quite a laborious process, just documenting what we call the crime base -- the level of criminal activity that not only has taken place in the last few months, but appears to be unfolding. This is one half of our investigation.

We are operating, essentially, from exactly the same kind of open source base that is available to journalists and others. And, of course, at the same time we are trying to move forward in our command and control investigations. That, of course, we cannot do solely on the basis of refugee accounts.

QUESTION: Justice Arbour, can you tell us the scope and quantify in some way what you're asking for in additional assistance? Are you seeking to double that, 10 percent; are there any numbers associated with the kind of help you're seeking as you go around?

JUSTICE ARBOUR: You mean in terms of financial assistance?

QUESTION: Financial, numbers of prosecutors, numbers of court rooms, perhaps, as you're thinking down the road. Is there any way you can tell us the scope and the size that you're looking for?

JUSTICE ARBOUR: Well, I have to say, we're not thinking at this point -- or certainly not with the ambit of my jurisdiction or my competence -- to look at additional courtrooms or judicial complement. I have to look, essentially, at the investigative capacity of my office.

The Tribunal's total budget for 1999 is approximately $94 million, of which about $26.5 million are dedicated to the Office of the Prosecutor. The Tribunal has a staff of approximately 700, of which about 325 are in the Office of the Prosecutor, of which about 70 are presently investigators. We also have crime analysts, military analysts and so on.

What we're looking at, essentially -- and this budget, as you can well imagine, is our main source budget from the United Nations General Assembly, and was developed on the basis of projections that we made, essentially, last summer and that was presented last fall. The landscape has changed considerably, certainly since January of this year. We are now looking at contributions to the voluntary trust fund, which is a trust fund to which states may make contributions to allow us, essentially, to increase our investigative capacity.

So we have developed figures that we are sharing with potential contributors, based on a contribution for six months, ten months or a full year. We are looking at the range of seeking possible contributions in the range of $15 million to $20 million, looking at what we can realistically also absorb in terms of immediate recruitment and deployment within our field of action.

QUESTION: Justice Arbour, do you see the mission of the Tribunal as one of deterrence of these types of activities? And if so, why have we seen 14 months of atrocities in Kosovo without a single indictment?
• **Excludes Bipartisan Provider Payment Policies.** While the Republican Leadership bill maintained its HMO payment increases without meaningful accountability, it rejected more justifiable provider payment policies such as:

  ° **Additional help for hospitals.** The Republican Leadership bill rejects the bipartisan Senate Finance Committee policies to extend the full inpatient hospital market basket update for two years; provide a 6.5 percent indirect medical education (IME) adjustment for two years; and fix Puerto Rico hospitals’ payment formula. It also rejected the bipartisan Commerce Committee Medicaid policy to permanently adjust the state disproportionate share hospital (DSH) allotments for inflation.

  ° **Additional help for rural providers.** The Republican Leadership bill rejected the bipartisan Senate Finance Committee proposal to provide additional assistance to rural home health agencies and further increase Medicare DSH payments for rural hospitals.

  ° **Nursing home quality grants.** The Republican Leadership bill rejected the proposal, supported by the Senate Aging Committee Chairmen Grassley and Breaux, to improve staffing ratios in nursing homes. Inadequate staffing ratios contribute to the more than 25 percent of nursing homes which have had deficiencies that caused actual harm to residents or placed them at risk of death or serious injury. This bipartisan proposal would increase staffing ratios through financial incentives and disincentives in the context of a $1 billion, five-year grant program to improve staff recruitment, retention, and reporting.

**NOT A QUESTION OF MONEY – A QUESTION OF PRIORITIES**

• **Republican Leadership Plan Spends Four Dollars on HMOs for Every One Dollar on Beneficiaries.** Having rejected all of the Committees’ bipartisan beneficiary proposals, the spending by the Republican Leadership is heavily skewed towards HMOs – even though they get no commitment that these HMOs will stay in their communities as a result of this money.

• **Bipartisan Priorities Are Affordable.** Until last week, the Republican Committees and Leadership stated that they would spend about $28 billion over 5 years in this Medicare / Medicaid bill. However, because the Leadership included in its bill savings from a modified Administration regulation, its plan now costs $11 billion. Thus, it could add up to $17 billion worth of bipartisan priorities and still be below what it just last week said it would spend.
The Tribunal now needs real-time support for its Kosovo investigations, and the United States is determined to give it. The world needs to know exactly what is happening there, and we are committed to helping discover it. Milosevic's victims, and those everywhere who love justice, need to know that there will be no impunity for those who commit these heinous offenses. And we're committed to helping the Tribunal ensure that those responsible are held accountable.

Justice Arbour.

JUSTICE ARBOUR: Thank you. I don't have a statement. I think I'd rather turn to your questions, except to say that I've had very fruitful discussions. We had announced a few weeks ago that we now need unprecedented assistance, in order to respond to the kinds of allegations that are coming out of Kosovo in a time frame that will make our work relevant. The discussions I've had in Germany, in the United Kingdom, here, and that I hope to have in France next week, are very much a part of our effort to obtain this kind of assistance. I'm happy to say that the support that is promised to us is starting to materialize, and I hope that it will permit us to face this massive flow of information and organize it in a coherent fashion that will allow us to discharge our mandate in a real-time environment.

QUESTION: Did you discuss an indictment of Slobodan Milosevic, and did you discuss reports that Justice Arbour is planning to leave this position; and what is the US view of that?

SECRETARY ALBRIGHT: Well, obviously, the question of what is going to happen to Mr. Milosevic is a subject that is very much on our minds, and Justice Arbour knows what we have said both publicly and privately; that she and the Tribunal need to follow out the trail of evidence to its conclusion. We, as I said, are supportive of her efforts.

She and I did not personally discuss the subject of -- it is my understanding. We talked about the challenge of the position. I was there when she was chosen as prosecutor, and I made very clear to her our tremendous support for the work that she has done and will continue to do. She is a great public servant, and someone that the international community has the highest respect for.

JUSTICE ARBOUR: You know that I've taken the position that it's inappropriate in my office to single out individuals as targets for investigations. The discussions that we have, both privately and publicly, are focused on our desire to bring the evidence forward at the highest level of political and/or military responsibility.

We are here, and elsewhere, to ensure that we get the assistance to move the cases forward in that direction. Whether it points to any particular individual, I think the law is very clear: there is no immunity before our Tribunal for heads of state. There's no immunity, essentially, for any individual, both in a personal or a command responsibility position. All our discussions take place in that framework.

QUESTION: Are you going to stay in this position?

JUSTICE ARBOUR: Well, I'm not having discussions with the government of Canada on my future. I certainly am not having discussions with anybody else on matters that relate, essentially, to a domestic question in Canada.

QUESTION: Madame Secretary, as you know, the most gruesome possibility that we see out of the Kosovo conflict is the possibility that hundreds, thousands, perhaps tens of thousands of young men have been murdered en masse. Can you tell us specifically how you would get to evidence of that kind of thing before you can get into Kosovo?

SECRETARY ALBRIGHT: Well, I think that generally what we are trying to do -- as I
MEDICAID/S-CHIP STATE OPTION FOR LEGAL IMMIGRANTS

Proposals

• **Bipartisan House Commerce BBA Bill:** Provides state option for Medicaid and S-CHIP coverage for legal immigrant pregnant women and children after 2 years from entry.
  Cost: $0.0 billion/1, $0.5 billion/5, $1.4 billion/10

• **Other Bills:** H.R. 4707, sponsored by Diaz-Balart and Waxman, has 60 co-sponsors. S. 1227, sponsored by Chafee and Graham, has 12 co-sponsors. Included in FamilyCare bills (Senate bill had 3 Republican co-sponsors: Chafee, Collins, and Snowe). Included in Senate Democratic caucus bill.

• **Administration Position:** Support Commerce provision without 2-year ban (in last 2 budgets). Would insure 144,000 children per year and 33,000 pregnant women per year.
  Cost: $0.0 billion/1, $0.6 billion/5, $1.6 billion/10

Rationale

• Pre-1996, legal immigrants were entitled to full Medicaid coverage and other public programs. Undocumented aliens were restricted to emergency medical coverage only.

• Welfare reform placed a five-year ban on qualified immigrants (those entering the country legally after August 22, 1996) for receiving Medicaid and S-CHIP coverage. Refugees and asylees are exempt from the ban for seven years.

• Medicaid participation (and subsequently S-CHIP) by legal immigrant children fell from 37 percent in 1995 to 29 percent in 1999. In 1999, 45 percent of immigrant children in low-income families (below 200 percent of poverty) were uninsured. 32 percent of uninsured children were in low-income immigrant families.

• 38 percent of non-citizen children did not see a doctor or nurse in the preceding year; 46 percent of immigrant children and 26 percent of low-income immigrant children had no usual place to get health care.

• Problems with 2-year ban: A typical immigrant already waits for at least two years before being admitted legally into the United States. For example, for family reunification immigrants, they must wait at least 20 months. For those from Mexico, it is at least six years. The wait may be as high as 21 years. The primary purpose of legal immigration is economic (a higher-paying job) rather than the availability of social services.

Support

• **Congressional Support:** House Republicans (Diaz-Balart and 7 others) sent letter to Hastert urging inclusion of the provisions in any givebacks legislation (10/6/00). A bipartisan bicameral letter from 20 Senators and Congressmen was sent to Lott and Hastert on 10/19/00. A bipartisan bicameral letter from Graham and 13 others was sent to the President on 10/10/00.

why that isn't happening; and how hopeful are you that those people will be arrested, particularly someone like Karadzic and Mladic? And Secretary Albright, if you could also answer that.

JUSTICE ARBOUR: Well, I'm not sure that I'm ever told anything but the fact that there is a commitment to seeing this agenda unfold appropriately, in an appropriate time frame. Nobody feels, I'm sure, accountable to me as to why certain things happen or don't happen at a particular time. So I can't tell you. I wish I had an understanding that would satisfy me as to whether the key to speeding up that process is operational or whether it's political or whether it's a combination of both. I can't tell you that I'm being provided an answer, beyond the fact that there's always an expressed support for the need to see this agenda proceed.

QUESTION: What do you think it says to the people of Bosnia or someone like Milosevic, who realizes that Karadzic or Mladic have never been arrested?

JUSTICE ARBOUR: Well, as I said before, on the deterrent issue -- solely on the question of deterrence, not on the overall kind of moral question of whether it's appropriate to neglect this issue -- but solely on the deterrent aspect of it, I think it sends a signal that there can be some comfort in thinking that the time may never come where indictments issued by this Tribunal will have real consequences on the lives of those who should be made accountable.

This is a regime of personal criminal responsibility. This Tribunal and the Tribunal for Rwanda have not been set up to settle political accounts or to try to determine whether wars that were fought were just wars or whether one side occupied high moral ground better than the other side. I mean, there's a mandate that requires that persons be made personally accountable for crimes that they may have committed and serve time -- possibly the rest of their lives incarcerated -- if they have. I think we are some distance in bringing that part of the mandate to fruition.

SECRETARY ALBRIGHT: Let me add to that. First of all, I think it has not been noted here that more than half of those who have been publicly indicted have been arrested, or are incarcerated in The Hague. So it isn't as if nothing was happening on that front. There is, and as you know, the forces have the authority to be able to proceed.

I think that there clearly -- those in question should never rest easy and think that they can wait this out; because there is no statute of limitations. We have made that quite clear. I think that there is a will to do this. We have all talked a great deal about the need to carry out everybody's obligations under the Dayton agreement. The United States will do its part. But the other countries, the places where these people are, also have an obligation to turn them over. And, as I said, there is no statute of limitations: their day will come.

QUESTION: Madame Secretary, is it, do you think realistic in political and ethical terms, to negotiate peace with a person who is an indicted war criminal? And Justice Arbour, is that consideration in your mind when it comes to at least the timing of handing down indictments against the leadership of Serbia?

SECRETARY ALBRIGHT: First of all, let me say it's a hypothetical question, is it not? But the issue, I think, really is -- I've been asked a number of times whether we would talk to Milosevic. I think that one can separate his -- I'm standing next to a lawyer, so I have to choose my words very carefully--separate his alleged actions from the necessity, at some stage, that one might have to speak to him. "Negotiate" is a different word. But the question, at this stage, is hypothetical.

QUESTION: Justice Arbour, is that a consideration?

JUSTICE ARBOUR: Yes, I'm conscious that it may become a moral or a political