

of these nationalized programs abroad, and I think the same thing would happen here. So we must not go for a program that is going to diminish the quality of American medical care.

So again, Dirk and Pam, thank you. We are very grateful for your leadership and helping to make all this happen. And to each and every one of you, my most sincere thanks. I really believe we can get something done, and I say that, recognizing that this is a weird year. [Laughter] This is what they call one of the weird ones out there. But when you have a commonsense idea, when you have something that is backed by the sound and sensible people like yourselves, we've got to find a way to make it

happen. So I pledge you my full support. My driving interest behind this really can be brought to bear in the Congress in ways that our pros here in the front row think necessary. So I am with you and very, very grateful to you.

Now, on for your real session where you're going to learn a lot more about it. Thank you all very much for coming.

*Note: The President spoke at 2:09 p.m. in Room 450 of the Old Executive Office Building. In his remarks, he referred to Dirk Vander Dongen, chairman, and Pam Bailey, executive director, Health Care Equity Action League.*

## Remarks Prior to a Meeting With Republican Congressional Leaders June 2, 1992

*The President.* I really appreciate everybody coming down. And we've got several key issues, but one that I am most interested in getting through is this balanced budget amendment. I think it is critical, and I think it's an idea whose time has come. It's an idea that the American people strongly support. One of the things I want to follow up on with you all now is how we do that. I know we've got problems in the Senate that are different than the House, but we've got to get it done for the American people. I'm very pleased with the way our troops are moving out on it, but that's one of the things on my mind for this meeting.

So let's pass a balanced budget amendment; discipline the Congress as well as the executive branch and everything else. We've

got to get it done.

*Q.* A lot of economists don't agree with you, like 400.

*The President.* Well, the people, the American people agree with me, and that's what matters. So we ought to get it done and not worry about those who don't. It's out there, and we've got ideas up there before the Congress right now that would accomplish this, too.

*Q.* What do you hear from the primaries?

*The President.* I haven't heard anything much there, Helen [Helen Thomas, United Press International].

*Note: The President spoke at 3:37 p.m. in the Cabinet Room at the White House. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.*

## Statement on the Conclusion of the Presidential Primary Season June 2, 1992

When the votes are counted tonight, millions of American voters will have participated in primaries, caucuses, and conven-

tions from New Hampshire to California. This is a uniquely important election year for our country, and I commend every