

sometimes our personal prejudices and think about what it takes to pull people together and give everybody a chance to be the most they can be. That's what the whole purpose of politics is.

And when this bill was held up, I didn't like it, but I offered to compromise, to take some of the jobs out of it, though it grieves me, to try to respond to some of the specific speeches that were given by Republican Senators on the floor of the Senate.

And so far what have they said to my good faith offer? Same old thing: stonewall. This is the deficit; we can't add to the deficit. Folks, this is the crowd that had the Government for 12 years. They took the deficit from \$1 trillion to \$4 trillion. Have they no shame? How can they say this? What is going on? Sometimes I think the secret to success in this town is being able to say the most amazing things with a straight face.

We're going to get the deficit down. We're going to try to keep interest rates down. But we've got to invest in people, and we've got to try to create jobs. Will this work wonders? No. Will it work some good? Yes, you bet it will. It is an effort. Did I even campaign on this? No. You endorsed me without asking me to promise an emergency jobs program. I offered this program for the simple reason that I looked at the performance of this economy and its difficulty in creating jobs. Then I looked around the world and I saw all these other countries having the same exact problem we were

having, and I thought, we've got to try something else. And I'll tell you something, if we get this done and it doesn't work, I'll try something else. We're living in a new and different time where we've got to try.

I ask you, every one of you that ever had a chance to make it because you joined this union, because somebody invested in a project that gave you a chance to work, because you had the opportunity to raise a family and have a house, educate kids. Just take a little time now and ask the people you know in the United States Congress, who have all made it, to think about how together we can provide these opportunities for others. The arguments they are using just don't hold water. They don't measure against the facts of what they have done in the past and what the facts of this budget that I have presented are. This is a modest program to give hope and opportunity to people in this country who need it and to try to get the job engine going in America again.

I have compromised. I have held out my hand. I think it's time for somebody to reach back across the divide of party politics and put the American people first. And you can help get it done today. I hope you will.

Thank you, and God bless you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:53 a.m. at the Washington Hilton Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to Robert Georgine, president, Building and Construction Trades Department, and Lane Kirkland, president, AFL-CIO.

Statement on the Tragedy in Waco, Texas

April 19, 1993

I am deeply saddened by the loss of life in Waco today. My thoughts and prayers are with the families of David Koresh's victims.

The law enforcement agencies involved in the Waco siege recommended the course of action pursued today. The Attorney General informed

me of their analysis and judgment and recommended that we proceed with today's action given the risks of maintaining the previous policy indefinitely. I told the Attorney General to do what she thought was right, and I stand by that decision.