

43 percent of the adults in this country don't exercise, that 5 years ago the Council sponsored a poll that said 42 percent of the American people who were adults were actively interested in pursuing a healthier lifestyle which would mean more exercise and a better diet and it's dropped now to 30 percent; when I see the number of children who live in our cities and are vulnerable to gangs and violence and drugs, and I realize that there are no public swimming pools in many of our cities available to them, that the basketball courts don't work anymore, that there are no longer baseball leagues for kids to play in in the summertime; when I look at large employers who spend fabulous amounts of money on health care but very little on the wellness of their employees, I say to myself, I like fighting these fights. I don't mind making these enemies. But unless the American people do something to seize control of their own personal health care destiny and that of their families and that of their friends and neighbors and the kids who live in their cities and communities, we are not going to become what we ought to become. That is why this day is important to me and to the American people.

So I say to the members of the President's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports, thank you. We will support you in every way we can. We hope your message will be heard loud and clear.

I say to my fellow Americans, ask yourselves what you can do to improve your own health, the health of your communities, and the availability of sporting and teamwork activities to kids. When you play sports, you don't have time to do other things. When you're involved in teamwork, you learn how to deal with the disappointment of defeat and frustration. You even learn how to manage unfairness. These are important things, lessons in life that have to be learned. A Government program cannot provide them.

So we'll keep doing our job. Let's help them do their job.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:21 a.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Florence Griffith Joyner and Tom McMillen, Cochairs of the Council.

Statement on Representative Dan Rostenkowski

May 31, 1994

Like all Americans, Chairman Rostenkowski has the right to contest the charges made against him and to have his day in court. Chairman

Rostenkowski and others have helped create real momentum for health care reform, and I am confident that legislation will pass this year.

Statement on the Death of Ezra Taft Benson

May 31, 1994

It was with sadness that I learned today of the passing of Ezra Taft Benson, who served our country and his church with ceaseless dedication over a long life productively lived.

It is no accident that one of Mr. Benson's most famous books emphasized in its words and thoughts the three values his life best represented—church, God, and country. He was a leader of his church for five decades, he preached with passion for unity, solidarity, and

responsibility within the family, and he served ably in the Eisenhower administration as Agriculture Secretary.

As we celebrate D-Day and the liberation of Europe, it is important to remember that Mr. Benson was the first representative of his church to reenter post-war Europe, where he distributed aid and lifted the spirits of thousands of survivors.