

So what I'm asking you for on behalf of myself and the Congress, including Members in the other party like Senator Packwood, who really want to see something done on this, is to be our partner in this. You know based on your experience that everybody is going to have to be covered. And there is only—in my opinion, there are only three ways to do it. You can have a tax and do it the way the Canadians do. You can require employers to cover it, the way most people are covered here. You can have a mixture the way the Germans do, where employers, cover their employees but if you're a high-income person, you have to get your own. You can have an individual mandate on everybody, but the problem is, look at the problems States have right now in enforcing the automobile liability requirement.

So there is no easy way to do this. If this were easy, it would have been done 60 years ago when Roosevelt tried to do it or 20 years ago when President Nixon tried to do it or in the Carter administration. This is not an easy thing. But we have reached a point—if you look at the trends in the Federal budget, if you look at how we're spending our money in our economy, if you look at how every last red cent you spend needs to be evaluated in a globally competitive context, we have reached the point where, on sheer grounds of humanitarianism for the working people of this country—and most people without insurance work, and they pay their taxes to give health care to people who don't work today—so on the grounds of humanitarianism and self-interest, we need to do this.

If we care about what the Federal budget is going to look like 5 or 10 years from now, and you don't want to see Leon Panetta either gray or bald within 2 years, we have got to face this question. We have tackled it and danced around with it and struggled with it and piecemealed it, literally, for six decades now. And I believe the time has come to act.

If you can help us get wired together on the basic principles of coverage for everybody, an end to cost-shifting, responsibility for individuals as well as employers in sharing some of the cost, we can work out the rest. And we need less rhetoric and more commitment to try and to solve what is a huge problem for all Americans.

We've got a lot on our plate this year. But I didn't run for this job just to come to nice dinners. I thought you hired me to get things done. I can't do it unless you help. But helping means not only being critical but being a critical part of the solution.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 7:12 p.m. in the ballroom at the Park Hyatt Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to David T. Kearns, former chairman, Xerox Corp., and former Deputy Secretary of Education; Kenneth L. Lay, chairman and chief executive officer, Enron Corp., Houston, TX; and James R. Burke, former chairman and chief executive officer, Johnson & Johnson, Inc., and chairman, Partnership for a Drug-Free America.

## Statement on the Nomination of Jamie Gorelick To Be Deputy Attorney General

*February 23, 1994*

I applaud Attorney General Reno's choice of Jamie Gorelick to be the next Deputy Attorney General for the Department of Justice.

She has ably served my administration with great distinction as General Counsel of the Department of Defense, and I am confident Jamie will continue to bring her sharp legal mind, penetrating analysis, and tremendous management capabilities to her newest assignment.

I look forward to working closely with Attorney General Reno and Jamie Gorelick in fighting for passage of a tough, smart crime bill and to give the American people a Justice Department that is innovative in its approaches and solutions for crime reduction and law enforcement.