

classrooms and libraries to the information superhighway. And I thank the people in Congress who unanimously—almost unanimously—passed that bill, and the industries that supported it. We must all continue to do our part.

But our National Government must do its part, too. Consistent with the recommendations of the National Information Infrastructure Advisory Committee, which I appointed and which recently issued its last reports—full of communications executives and others expert in communication around our country—I am today announcing a major initiative to energize our people to work to fulfill that mission even more quickly. I am proposing in my present budget, paid for in the balanced budget, a \$2 billion technology literacy challenge that will put the future at the fingertips of every child in every classroom in America.

The two Members of Congress here present are in a unique position to support this endeavor: Senator Lautenberg, because before he became a Senator he was in the information business, and he saw the possibilities of computers, and he knows it should be used to do more

than make successful businesses, it should make successful students; and Congressman Menendez, because of what he has done with you here.

Together, working with like-minded Democrats and Republicans, we can make this America's cause. We can do this. We can have computers in every classroom. We can have all students eager to learn. We can have the face of every single child light up, and we can know that down deep inside every child can believe again that he or she—no matter what their background, no matter what their economic challenges—can fulfill the mission that they have the capacity to fulfill. We can do this. We can do it together, and I believe we will.

Thank you, and God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:30 a.m. in the gymnasium at St. Michael's Academy. In his remarks, he referred to Mayor Bruce D. Walter of Union City; Tom Highton, superintendent, Union City School District; and Leo Klagholz, New Jersey secretary of education.

Statement on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Report on Tobacco and Youth

February 15, 1996

This week at the White House, I heard directly from a group of children about the easy access and allure of cigarettes.

This report is further evidence that parents need all the help they can get in their daily struggle to keep our kids tobacco-free.

Every day, more than 3,000 young people become regular smokers. Nearly a thousand of them will have their lives shortened because of tobacco-related illnesses. Smoking is the leading cause of preventable death in this country, con-

tributing to more than 30 percent of all cancer deaths.

Let me be clear: This administration will continue to lead the fight to help parents protect children from the hazards of tobacco addiction.

NOTE: The Department of Health and Human Services' Centers for Disease Control and Prevention released the report entitled "Accessibility of Tobacco Products to Youths Aged 12–17 Years—United States, 1989 and 1993" on February 16.