

that no State has figured out how to do that I think would make a difference that is profound in the future of the children of this State.

Finally, let me say I think that there is one other thing that we ought to help do, and that is to add to the basics for the 21st century computer literacy and access to the information superhighway. I have asked the Congress to give me a small amount of money, \$2 billion, to help us work with the private sector in school districts all across America to make sure that by the year 2000, every classroom and every library in every school in America is connected to the information superhighway, and I think that is very, very important.

If you just think about what that would mean, and if we do it in a way that guarantees the good software and properly trained teachers—the State of West Virginia has been hooking up a grade a year, for 6 years now. They’re going into junior high school; they just got out of grade school. But one-third of all the money they’ve spent on computers and wiring and connections, one-third of all the money they spent on teacher training. So it’s important that whatever we do to help put the rest of this together, the teachers are properly trained.

That could also do more for our poor States and our poor school districts than anything else. Think about it. If you’ve got good equipment, good software, trained teachers in the remotest, most rural school district in the mountains of the Arkansas Ozarks or in the backwaters of Louisiana, you could have children doing research papers out of libraries in Australia on volcanoes anywhere in the world. You could have the quality of instruction coming to people that they could never get any other way, that today may be available only to people who go to the fanciest, most rigorous private and public schools in America.

So I think that—I want you to all think about that. We ought not to start this new century

without every classroom and every library hooked up to the Internet, without adequate software for these kids, without adequate computers for these kids, and without enough teachers being trained to make sure they can do it. We can leapfrog a whole generation of economic advancements in our public schools if we do this right. And there’s no excuse for us in the South—we have waited too long for this—there is no excuse for us to walk away from this, especially in the Southern States.

So I ask you to think about those things. And again, I say in closing, I saw my job when I became President to create a structure of opportunity for the 21st century, so that every American would be able to make the most of their own lives, and to find a way for us to work together with responsibility and a united community, instead of being divided.

The results, I think, have not always satisfied me in Washington. But we are in better shape than we were 3½ years ago. And even in Washington—you look at it—every time we work together, we produce something that’s good for America. When we work together, we do something that is good for America. When you work together, you will do something that is good for Louisiana.

And I will say again, I believe that having a world-class education system that is available to all of our children is now the single most important thing we can do, not just for the South to catch up to America but for America to remain the strongest, most prosperous country in the world in the next century. And we owe that to our children.

Thank you, and God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 6:15 p.m. at the State Capitol. In his remarks, he referred to Gov. Mike Foster and his wife, Alice; H.B. Downer, Jr., speaker, Louisiana House of Delegates; and Randy Ewing, president, Louisiana State Senate.

Remarks to the Community in Baton Rouge *May 30, 1996*

Thank you very much. I want to thank Senator Breaux, and I want to thank Keith, Frank,

and the Soileau Zydeco Band. Let’s give them a hand; they were great. [*Applause*]

I've had a wonderful day in Louisiana. I started off in New Orleans and met with 20,000 people there at the Church of God in Christ women's conference. And then I had a big lunch, and I came up here. I enjoyed speaking to the legislature. I emerged unscathed; as you can see, I'm still standing here. And I think you heard the speech, didn't you? So you shouldn't have to go through another one.

Let me just briefly make a couple of points. First of all, I want to thank all the young people in this audience today for coming out here. And I want you to know that, more than anything else, day-in and day-out, I try to imagine what this country will look like when you're my age. I try to think about what we can do to make this country what it ought to be when you raise your children and when you raise your grandchildren.

I want this country to be a place where everybody can live out their dreams if they're willing to work for it. I want it to be a place where we come together and we cherish and we respect the differences among us, instead of looking for ways to keep being divided in the same old way. That's a paralyzing, frustrating, ultimately self-defeating way to live.

I want your country to be the strongest force in the world for peace and freedom and prosperity. I want to be able to say when I leave this office that—not that we solved all the problems in the world but that America has a way to solve its problems at home by coming together and a way to lead the world to make the place safer for everybody.

I want you to be able to look at your country and say, "You know, I believe that we're going to do fine. I believe we're going to grow together. I believe we're going to go forward together. And I don't have any doubt that the 21st century will be the greatest years this country ever had." That's what I want you to believe. That is the test of what we will do.

Now, I know we're going into an election season and, frankly, we're going into it a little sooner than I think we ought to. *[Laughter]* I'd like to see everybody in Washington just settle down and keep on passing bills that the people need. We need to raise the minimum wage and pass the health care reform. We need to pass the Kassebaum-Kennedy health care reform bill so you don't lose your health insurance if you change jobs and somebody in your family is sick. We need to pass the right kind of bal-

anced budget amendment that protects Medicare and Medicaid and environmental programs and educational programs, including the AmeriCorps program that is represented here. That's what we need to do.

So I wish we could put it off awhile. But the main thing I want you to know is that I'm going to try to give this year back to you. And when this year is over, I want you to feel that American democracy has flourished. But that means you have to do your part. Don't let your friends and neighbors say it doesn't make any difference. Don't let your friends and neighbors be cynical. It makes a huge difference.

You have here a great debate going on in our country about how we're going to march into the 21st century, two very, very different visions of change, two honestly different visions of what we should be doing in Washington and what we should be doing at the grassroots. And they are honest and forthright. For all of the things that may not seem right, there are real differences between the way I believe we should reach the next century and the way the leaders of the other party believe we should reach the next century.

Now, we can make a lot of agreements, and if we just do things that we agree on, we can get a lot done for America. But the election will be a discussion about where the disagreements are, and what I want to do is to give it back to you. I want you to feel that you are participating in it, that you're shaping the election, that your questions are being answered, that your hopes are being nourished, not that it's just some sort of couch potato mud fight. *[Laughter]*

But to do it, you've got to do your part. I'm encouraged by seeing you out here today in large numbers. I'm encouraged by your good spirits. I'm encouraged by your enthusiasm. I'm encouraged by your energy. But you just remember: This country has been around for more than 200 years because more than half the time, more than half the people have understood enough to know what the right thing to do was to move our country into the future, to keep it growing and going and coming together instead of being divided and diverted and distracted.

So I say to you, if we can create opportunity, if we can act responsibly in a way that comes together instead of letting our country be driven apart, the best days of this country lie ahead

of us. That is my dedication. That is your dedication. That's what we ought to together give to the United States in 1996.

Thank you, and God bless you all. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 7:26 p.m. at the Pentagon Barracks. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Letter to Congressional Leaders on Most-Favored-Nation Trade Status for China

May 31, 1996

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

I hereby transmit the document referred to in subsection 402(d)(1) of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended (the "Act"), with respect to the continuation of a waiver of application of subsections (a) and (b) of section 402 of the Act to the People's Republic of China. This document constitutes my recommendation to continue in effect this waiver for a further 12-month period and includes my reasons for determining that continuation of the waiver currently in effect for the People's Republic of China

will substantially promote the objectives of section 402 of the Act, and my determination to that effect.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to Newt Gingrich, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Albert Gore, Jr., President of the Senate. The Presidential determination is listed in Appendix D at the end of this volume.

The President's Radio Address and an Exchange With Reporters

June 1, 1996

The President. Good morning. This week the people of Israel, in a vigorous, very close election, voted to elect a new Prime Minister. Yesterday I called Prime Minister-elect Netanyahu to congratulate him on his victory and to discuss America's enduring friendship with Israel, our commitment to its strength and security and to a lasting peace in the Middle East. I also spoke with outgoing Prime Minister Peres. I told him to take comfort in history's judgment. Decades from now people will look back and see in Shimon Peres one of the great peacemakers of our time. Now the partnership between Israel and the United States will be the foundation from which our two countries together continue to build a comprehensive, lasting, and secure peace in the Middle East.

Now I'd like to turn to the homefront and to some of our most important citizens, our children. Some of them have joined with me today along with their parents here in the Oval Office. And later today they'll join tens of thousands

of people to show their support for America's young people at the Stand for Children at the Lincoln Memorial.

This is an important time for America's children. They're growing up in a world that is changing rapidly. They need our help more than any generation before them. As Hillary says, children are not rugged individualists; they depend upon us—their parents and others in the community who love them—to give them love and guidance and discipline, to provide for them, and to defend them. That's as it should be. Their future and ours depends upon how well we do our job.

If our society sends our children the wrong signals, we should work together to change that. That's why I have proposed strict limits on tobacco advertising directed toward children. That's why we're giving parents the V-chip and why we worked to persuade the TV networks to develop a rating system so parents can control the shows their children watch. That's why I