

dangerous pesticides, all supported by the agricultural community. We've cleaned up more toxic dumps in 3 years than they did in 12. We're moving in the right direction.

And finally, I want Americans who need it to have a tax cut, but I want it to be a tax cut we can afford, that will do some good for individuals, for families, and for our country. I proposed a targeted tax cut. I already told you about the education cuts, a \$500-credit for children under 13, an expanded IRA for people with incomes phasing up to \$100,000 that you can put into and then save and withdraw from for education, to buy that first home, for health care costs. Those are the kind of tax cuts that will help ordinary American families. We can afford those.

Now, as you heard from our friends in San Diego, my respectable opponents, they offer you one that's 5 times as big. So why shouldn't you go for them? Well, let me ask you this. Would you wake up tomorrow morning—well, you wouldn't tomorrow morning, I guess, but—yes, you would, it's Monday—would you wake up tomorrow morning, go to the bank, and borrow money to give yourself a tax cut? Well, then why would you hire somebody to do it? *[Laughter]* Think about that. You think about it.

Our friends in the Republican Party last year said—not me, they said—they said, and they were right, that if we're on a balanced budget plan, interest rates will be 2 percent lower than if we're not. You just figure it out. If your home mortgage, your car payment, your credit card payments go up 2 percent, all your tax cut will go out the window paying higher interest rates. And we'll have slower job growth. And we won't be putting more people to work. And the economy won't be growing.

But if we have a targeted, disciplined tax cut that creates more people like this fine lady who introduced me, if we have more people like her who feel like they can write the President six times until he shows up—*[laughter]*—who

are proud to be working to improve their education while they're raising children, then there'll be a lot more Cindy Bakers in this country.

I can give you a tax cut that we can afford that will balance the budget, keep the economy growing, educate our children, educate their parents, allow us to save for health care and homebuying, and we can balance the budget. That's the tax cut we need going forward on that track into the future, not backward. We tried it the other way, and it did not work.

So I want you to help me give that message. We're better off than we were 4 years ago. We've got health care reform, minimum wage reform, 10 million more jobs, a stronger economy, a crime bill that's working to bring down the crime rate. We're in the middle of welfare reform, and we're doing the right things. We're bringing the American people together, not dividing them.

But we're only halfway home. We've got a lot to do. We have gotten the country going in the right track. In the next 4 years, we need to make sure that every single American who's responsible enough to work for it has a chance to benefit and be rewarded and build a strong career, a strong life, a strong family, a strong community, and a strong nation. That is my commitment to you. That's what the next 4 years are about. That's why I need your help.

Will you help? Will you help? Will you help me? *[Applause]* Every day, every way, stay with me on to Chicago, on to November. We have to have Ohio. I'm glad to be back. Bring me home again.

God bless you, and thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:35 p.m. on the rear platform of the 21st Century Express at U.S. Route 23. In his remarks, he referred to Mayor Joseph P. Sulzer of Chillicothe, and Cindy Baker, who introduced the President.

Remarks in Columbus, Ohio August 26, 1996

The President. Thank you. Thank you so much. I'm glad to see all of you. I thank you

for that wonderful introduction. I am delighted to be here. Thank you, Chief Jackson, for being

here and for the work you do every day. Thank you, Sheriff Karnes, for being here, for what you do as well. And I'm very grateful to you.

Thank you, Senator Glenn—

[*At this point, there was a disturbance in the audience.*]

The President. Wait, wait, wait. No, wait a minute. Okay, wait, wait, wait. I believe in the first amendment. Now you've had your say, may I have mine? [*Applause*] Thank you, thank you very much. We'll talk about the record now.

[*The disturbance continued.*]

The President. You've got to feel sorry for these people. They don't want you to know my record; that's why they have to shout. They'd be in a world of hurt if the American people—[*applause*—you know, if the American people find out the truth. They don't have a chance, and they have to try to shout it down. I don't blame them. You got to feel sorry for—[*applause*].

Now, let me say I am delighted to be joined here with Senator John Glenn. He talked about how we'd reduced the Government. He didn't say that he deserves a lot of the credit for it. Our friends on the other side talked a lot—like today, you see, they're good at that—they talked a lot about the Government and how it was too big and how terrible it was, you know. But it just got bigger. They didn't do anything about it.

We reduced the size of it. You have the smallest Federal Government since John Kennedy was President. You have the smallest Federal Government as a percentage of our work force since Franklin Roosevelt took the oath of office in 1933, before the New Deal.

But the reason you haven't heard about it is we didn't throw those people in the street. Of the 250,000 people smaller the Federal Government is, fewer than 1,800 were involuntarily separated. I'm proud of that. We treated those people with dignity and helped them to go on to other lives and said, thank you for what you did for your country.

And you haven't heard about it because we continue to do the good work of America, because we have a strong and effective Government. We don't have a weak Government; it's just leaner and more effective. And that's a big part—in big part the result of the efforts and the leadership of John Glenn, who saved hun-

dreds of millions of dollars in defense procurement and did so many other things for this country that he will never get adequate credit for. But the people of Ohio should know what he has done.

I also want to thank a daughter of Ohio, your State treasurer who's now my national Treasurer, Mary Ellen Withrow, who's here with me today. I thank her. I thank my friend Gene Branstool. I think he's back here with us today. I went to his farm, as John Glenn said, and Gene came and served with us in the Department of Agriculture until he decided, like any sane person, that he'd rather live in Ohio than Washington, DC. [*Laughter*] I've got my Ohio buckeye that I got in Chillicothe last night. When I was on the train yesterday, I noticed the corn crop, and it looks really pretty. But I told Gene, I said, "It's not as high as it was in 1992." He said, "I know, but the prices are a lot higher, and that's even better." [*Laughter*]

So I am delighted to be here with you. I thank Senator Jeff Johnson—State Senator Jeff Johnson—and Franklin County Democratic chair Dennis White for being here and all of you for coming out today. I want to say a special thanks to the students of the police academy and the men and women who graduated from it and the law enforcement officials who are here today. They are here today so that we can express our gratitude to them.

One of the proudest moments of my Presidency was to stand with America's police officers and sign, after 7 years of long, hard struggle, the Brady bill. I never thought of public safety as a political issue before. I never thought of it as a Republican issue, when they said they were tough on crime, because I'd been working on it for 20 years. It never occurred to me that—when a person gets mugged, they don't ask if you're a Democrat or a Republican. I thought it was an American issue. And then when we were fighting to pass the Brady bill, I never thought of it as a political issue, even though the NRA had more influence over the other party. There's lots of NRA members in my home State, and half the folks have a hunting or a fishing license or both. But tonight I'm proud to say that the Brady bill, which was named after Ronald Reagan's Press Secretary, Jim Brady, and was pushed by his wife, Sarah Brady—I'm proud to say that at the Democratic Convention in Chicago tonight

Sarah Brady will be one of the speakers. It's an American issue to stand up for public safety.

You know, we are living in an age of enormous possibility. You read about it all the time; the technological changes are staggering. The children in this audience, a lot of them—a lot of the young people 10 years from now will be doing jobs that have not even been invented yet, jobs that have not even been imagined yet. The pace of change is staggering. And I've been doing everything I could to make sure that we are ready for the 21st century. It starts in just 4 years. I'm taking a train through the heartland of America because I want to see people like you that I've been fighting for and because I want people like you to know that that train is on the right track to the 21st century.

We spent a lot of time talking about opportunity, and last week was a good week for opportunity. We raised the minimum wage for 10 million people, 440,000 in Ohio. We made it easier for small-business people and their employees to take out and keep their pension plans, even when they change jobs, and that's very important. We made it easier for families to adopt children, even across racial lines, and gave them a tax credit to do it, and that's very important. We passed the welfare reform law, but we kept guaranteed health care and child care for working women and children, so that when we give people a job they can also take care of their kids. That's what we want for middle class families; it's what we should want for poor families as well.

We signed the Kennedy-Kassebaum health care reform bill to protect 25 million people, to give them a chance to keep their health insurance when they changed jobs and to say you can't be denied health insurance just because somebody in your family gets sick. That's what insurance is for, people are going to get sick. It was a great thing.

Senator Glenn talked about the deficit. Actually, Senator, the last time a President had the deficit go down in all 4 years of his Presidency was before the Civil War, in the 1840's, under John Tyler. It's been a long time since we did that. That's the good news. The bad news is John Tyler was not reelected. *[Laughter]* But what you ought to know while you're having that laugh is—this is the important thing, not how long ago it was—what you really ought to know is, when you consider the major issues in this election, is that your budget would not

only be balanced, there would be a healthy surplus in the Federal budget today if it weren't for the interest we have to pay on the debt that was run up in just the 12 years before I took office. And you all remember what that debt meant and what that interest meant. It meant high interest costs, low investment, slow job growth, nobody getting a raise, homeownership declining because mortgage rates were so high.

We cannot afford to blow a hole in this deficit again. We can have a tax cut that's targeted to childrearing, to education, to training of adults, to helping us grow the economy and helping give some income relief to middle class people. But we dare not take one we can't afford, and we don't need to go to the bank and borrow the money. We need to go on and balance this budget, keep the interest rates down, keep homeownership going up, keep business investment going up, keep new jobs going up, keep wages rising. That's what we've got to do.

But this whole agenda—when you talk about the opportunity agenda in America, you can get a lot of applause lines, because we've created a lot of opportunity. But America doesn't work without the other half of the bargain, responsibility. Without responsibility, opportunity will not flourish. And unless we are committed to that basic bargain and to the proposition that we have to go forward together across racial lines, across religious lines, across all the lines that divide us—we need to say, as long as we all believe in the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, the Bill of Rights, we show up for work every day, we're going arm in arm into the future. We're going to be one community in America and going arm in arm into the future.

Four years ago, I really believed after talking to Americans all over this country that the biggest threat to that and the biggest affront to our sense of responsibility was the rising rate of crime and violence all over America. We put into place a tough strategy based on what was working already at the grassroots level to try to reduce the crime rate, focusing on police, on punishment, on prevention, 100,000 more police on the street, "three strikes and you're out," the assault weapons ban, the Brady bill, recreational programs for children after school, keeping the schools open more, helping communities to do that, putting those D.A.R.E. officers

in, having a zero-tolerance policy for guns, doing things that would work to help our kids have something to say yes to, not just to say no to. All these things are making a difference.

For 2 years I've been telling America we were having a terrible dilemma: the crime rate was going down, but the juvenile crime rate was going up; the drug use rate was going down, but the juvenile drug use rate was going up. Now, we know for 2 years the juvenile murder rate has dropped dramatically, and last year for the first time in a long time, the juvenile crime rate started to go down. I can only hope that means that we can get the juvenile drug use rate down, too. We have to keep working on that. But the last thing we want to do is to take those D.A.R.E. officers out of the school. We ought to do more to provide safe and drug-free schools, not less.

What I'd like to talk about today is where we're going from here. I spent a lot of time trying to help schools all over America do things that would save more kids, to do things like have the option to adopt school uniform policies. I've seen it all over California, where it's become the rage, where you've got lower dropout rates, less violence, higher performance, all the kids feel better, not just the poor kids, the middle class kids, but the wealthy kids, too. People like being judged by what's on the inside, not what on the outside. It's helping to promote discipline and values in our schools. Tougher truancy laws are doing the same thing; curfew laws are doing the same thing. We ought to be doing more of that.

We also, as the sheriff and the chief said, did take on the gun issue, and a lot of people thought we had lost our minds. And I'll tell you, we did lose a lot of good Congressmen over it. Back in 1994, I remember the other side going around telling everybody in places like Ohio and Arkansas that the Democrats and the President had voted to take your guns away. I didn't know a single deer hunter with an Uzi, not a one. *[Laughter]* I've been duck hunting since I was a very young fellow, and it wouldn't have bothered me a lick to wait a few days on the Brady bill to have my record checked. I just didn't understand it. But they scared a lot of people. You may know a lot of people they scared. And a lot of people, a lot of good people, a lot of good people gave up their seats in Congress so these people could be safer when

they go out to defend you and so you could be safer.

So I hope over the next 70 days or so, you'll talk to your friends and neighbors who felt that way and remind them next time hunting season goes out, unless they decided not to, they're still carrying the same weapon they had in 1994. But there are 60,000 felons, fugitives, and stalkers who don't have handguns because of the Brady bill, and we're better off because of it.

Now, I want to say briefly today where I think we ought to go from here as Americans. And again, I hope they won't be partisan issues. The Brady bill has plainly worked. It has not imposed undue inconvenience on anybody. It has made our law enforcement officials safer. And it has made our citizens safer. It covers today anyone convicted of a felony.

The problem is there is one class of misdemeanors that tend to be particularly violent, where we know there's a potential for future violence, where often there's a plea bargain which goes from a felony to a misdemeanor. And that is the painful area of domestic violence. I believe that the Brady bill should cover anybody with a domestic violence conviction. I don't believe they should be able to buy a handgun. Under the current law, thousands of people who are wife beaters or child abusers, even those who have wielded weapons in their assault but were convicted of misdemeanors, can still buy handguns with potentially deadly consequences.

I believe strongly in the right of Americans to own guns. I have used them as a hunter with great joy. But make no mistake, those who threaten the safety of others do not deserve our trust. If you're convicted of a felony, you shouldn't have one. If you're a fugitive from the law, you shouldn't have a gun. If you're stalking or harassing women or children, you shouldn't have a gun. And if you commit an act of violence against your spouse or your child, you shouldn't have a gun.

Let me also say, domestic violence is a big threat to law enforcement officers. We're working hard with our new violence against women section and other efforts in the Justice Department to help police officers and prosecutors and judges to understand domestic violence, to recognize it when they see it, to know how to deal with it.

This past February, we launched a 24-hour, 7-day, toll-free hotline so women in trouble can

find out about emergency help, get shelter, report abuse to the authorities. I never miss a chance to give out the number. It's 1-800-799-SAFE. And about 7,000 people a month call on that hotline. Extending the Brady bill to victims of domestic violence, to protect them, will save more lives. It will also save more law enforcement lives.

There are other steps we should take to protect our police officers and our citizens from gun violence. Last summer I sent Congress legislation to ban cop-killer bullets. These bullets are designed to kill police. That's what they do. They're designed to pierce bulletproof vests. If a bullet can slice through a bulletproof vest like a hot knife through butter, it should be against the law. Every major law enforcement official organization supports this bill, and it's time for Congress to support it, too.

I want a bill to give prosecutors the power to impose tougher sentences on drug traffickers and gang members who also use a gun when they commit their crimes. We used to have a bill which did that, and the courts said, unless they were using the gun—even if they were carrying the gun in full view—they couldn't get extra penalties. That's wrong. That's wrong. We need to provide protection against people who are peddling drugs or doing other things with a gun designed to terrify people. We need to say, "If you do that, we're going to punish you more harshly."

Again, I want Congress to pass the bill I sent them nearly a year ago to ban guns anywhere near our schools. That is wrong. We used to have a bill on that, too, and the courts overturned it. So I sent them a bill to fix it, and it still hasn't passed. We don't need people wandering around a block from a schoolyard with a gun. We know there are too many kids who've been killed on play yards with guns in this country, and we do not need it.

Now, again, there are people who are against banning cop-killer bullets. They say it's just a slippery slope eroding their right to keep and bear arms. I have never seen a deer in a Kevlar vest—[laughter]—never. If somebody can show me a picture of one out there hiding from our hunters, I'll be glad to reassess my position. [Laughter] But until they do, I believe I'll stay with these folks here. I think they're entitled to be safe.

And let me just make one final comment. Usually when people like me give speeches like

this, we try, and sometimes we're fortunate enough to succeed, to have folks like this behind us, people in uniform, because we honor them, we're proud of them, we identify with them, and we're glad they're doing something we don't do and taking a risk for us. But I think we should never forget that the ultimate beneficiaries of all these efforts to make our streets safer and our schools safer and our homes safer are you. And I want to introduce you to the two people on the stage that I haven't introduced yet. And I want to tell you a story. It's one of the most moving stories of my over 20 years in public life.

This man and his son—this is Dimitrious Theofanis and his son, Nick. I'd like to ask them to stand up. [Applause] I want to tell you how I met Dimitrious. In early 1992,¹ about 4½ years ago, just before the New Hampshire primary, I had a fundraiser scheduled in a big hotel in New York. And frankly, I was having a tough time. I was dropping in the polls, and all the press had said I was dead and over, history, finished. I was feeling pretty sorry for myself. All I was thinking about was my politics. I'm ashamed to say it, but that's all I was thinking about.

And I was walking through this kitchen thinking there wasn't even going to be anybody at the fundraiser because everybody said I didn't have a chance anymore. And I'm kind of looking down and just feeling sorry for myself. It was pitiful. [Laughter] And Dimitrious was working in that hotel, in his uniform. And I was walking through the kitchen, and he came up to me and stopped me in the kitchen, and he said, "Governor," he said, "I want to talk to you a minute. My 10-year-old boy"—his son was 10 then—he says, "my 10-year-old boy, he studies this election in school, and he says I should vote for you." He said, "But if I vote for you, I want you to do something for me." I said, "What?" He said, "I want you to make my son free." I said, "What do you mean?" He said, "Well, in the country where I came from we were poor, but we were free. I'm an immigrant. Here I'm doing well. I'm working hard. I have more money, but we're not free." He said, "Just across the street from our apartment there is a park, but my son can't play in it unless I'm there with him. He has a school only two blocks from our home, but my son can't walk there

¹ White House correction.

unless I go with him. So if I do what my son wants me to do, I want you to make my boy free.”

They made an impression on me that will last for the rest of my life, and they were speaking for all of you. And I wanted you to see them today. They’re riding the train with me to Chicago. Thank you, and God bless you.

I hope you will support extending the Brady bill. I hope you will support banning cop-killer bullets. I hope you will support tougher pen-

alties for people who deal drugs with guns. And I hope you will support a good, clean law saying nobody has got any business with a gun anywhere near a school. Help us to keep making America free.

Thank you, and God bless you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:04 a.m. at the Columbus Police Academy. In his remarks, he referred to Chief of Police James Jackson of Columbus and Sheriff Jim Karnes of Franklin County.

Remarks in Arlington, Ohio

August 26, 1996

The President. Thank you. Thank you very much.

Audience members. Four more years! Four more years! Four more years!

The President. Thank you. Thank you so much. Thank you all for coming out. Thank you for being in such a wonderful frame of mind. Thank you for making us feel so welcome. And if you get too hot, we’ve got some water up here. Raise your hand. We don’t want anybody to collapse. We have doctors; we have nurses; we have lots of water.

Now, let me say, before I begin I’d like to thank the Arlington High School Band for doing such a great, great job. I’d like to thank the other people whose names I’ve been given: Ms. Mary Gould, the piano player; the Paragon Barbershop Quartet; Tom Kroske and his band. I’d like to thank Mayor Lynne Orwick of Arlington; Judge Reginald Rowton; the mayor of Fostoria, Mr. Jim Bailey; and Paul McClain, the candidate for Congress, who spoke earlier, I think. Thank you all for being here. Thank you, Mary Ellen Withrow, for doing a great job as the treasurer of Ohio and the Treasurer of the United States. I’m proud to have you in this administration.

I want to thank Senator John Glenn for being here with me on this train trip through the heartland and for his consistent, patriotic leadership for our country and for the people of Ohio in the Senate, to build the economy, to protect our interests around the world, to keep our defense strong, and to lead—lead—our party in the Congress and to help our administration in the most dramatic savings of funds in downsizing

of Government in modern American history. We now have the smallest and most efficient Federal Government since John Kennedy was the President of the United States, thanks in no small measure to John Glenn of Ohio.

Thank you, David Brown, for your speech and your passion and your commitment to the families and children of this community. Everywhere I go—and I’ve now been in Huntington, West Virginia; Ashland, Kentucky; Chillicothe and Columbus and a lot of little places along the way, just stopping, saying hello to people—but wherever we’ve had a rally, I have been introduced by a citizen, a citizen who is either doing something that is consistent with what our administration has pushed for the last 4 years or who represents what I’m trying to have happen in America.

I’m sure a lot of you saw that last week our administration became the first one in history to take very strong action to try to limit the marketing, distribution, and sales of tobacco to young people. We are doing our best, but I want to say to you, we cannot do this all by ourselves. We’ve got to have people in every community in this country determined to keep our kids safe from all the influences that are destructive to them. They’re all our children.

And with all respect to what was said in the convention in San Diego, Reverend Brown here just got up and gave a speech which validates the title of my wife’s book: It does take a village to raise our children, to raise our families, and to build a future.