

So everybody will say, "I wish something were in it that isn't." I wish that there were things that are in it that weren't. But I think we've got a good shot at getting the majority of both parties in both Houses, which has been my goal from the day one. And if it happens, America will be much better off.

Keep in mind, the bottom line is, if we show discipline here and keep interest rates down by balancing the budget, the American people in the private sector will grow the economy for us. That solves a lot of problems. If we show discipline in continuing to invest in our future,

then we will grow the economy in a way that will give us high-wage jobs, higher incomes, and greater equality, which will solve our problems for us. And meanwhile, we'll have a little honest—an honorable compromise; that's part of the way the process works.

Thank you. There will be a briefing on more specifics down at the White House shortly.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:58 p.m. while attending a Democratic senatorial retreat at the Harbour Court Hotel.

## Exchange With Reporters on the Budget Agreement May 2, 1997

Q. Mr. President, have you got all the Democrats on board now?

*The President.* A lot of them. I feel good about it.

Q. Do you need to do a selling job to the American people? Do you think you need to sell this at all?

*The President.* Oh, sure. We need to talk about it. We will. It's a good agreement, a good thing for America.

Q. [Inaudible]

*The President.* We're having them over here for a while.

NOTE: The exchange began at 6:05 p.m. on the South Lawn at the White House, on the President's return from Baltimore, MD. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

## Statement on the Department of Justice Appeal of the District Court Decision on Tobacco Regulation May 2, 1997

Today the Department of Justice filed a notice in the Greensboro U.S. District Court appealing the part of Judge Osteen's order that invalidated the Food and Drug Administration's tobacco advertising restrictions. The Department is asking for an expedited appeal, because every day of delay matters to our children's health. Each day, 3,000 children and young people become regular smokers, and 1,000 of them will

have their lives cut short as a result of their smoking. And this problem of youth tobacco use is getting worse. The percentage of 8th and 10th graders who smoke has risen for 4 consecutive years. The FDA's commonsense access and advertising restrictions would reverse this trend. We will continue to work to protect our children from tobacco, and we will not stop until we succeed.

May 2 / Administration of William J. Clinton, 1997

## Message to the Congress Transmitting a Report on Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction May 2, 1997

*To the Congress of the United States:*

The National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1997 (Public Law 104-201), title XIV, section 1443 (Defense Against Weapons of Mass Destruction), requires the President to transmit a report to the Congress that describes the United States comprehensive readiness pro-

gram for countering proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. In accordance with this provision, I enclose the attached report.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

The White House,  
May 2, 1997.

## The President's Radio Address and an Exchange With Reporters May 3, 1997

*The President.* Good morning. Yesterday we took a dramatic step to prepare America for the 21st century, and we got the best evidence yet that the new economic policy we adopted in 1993 is working for our people. Yesterday morning, we learned the unemployment rate has dropped to 4.9 percent, the lowest in 24 years. And yesterday afternoon, I reached an historic agreement with the leaders of Congress to balance the budget by 2002, with a plan that ensures we will balance the budget, invest in our future, protect our values and our obligations to our children, our parents, and those in need.

Four years ago when I took office, the economy was stagnating; job growth was sluggish; the budget deficit threatened to drown our economy. I believed it was time to change course with a new economic strategy: Invest and grow, cut the budget deficit, sell more products overseas through tough trade agreements, and invest in the skills of our people. In 1993, we put our economic plan in place. It wasn't easy; it required hard choices. But now, the deficit has been cut for 4 years in a row, falling from \$290 billion in 1992 to about \$80 billion this year—more than two-thirds of the way home to our first balanced budget since the 1960's. All this has spurred lower interest rates, more investment, and stronger growth.

And the good news goes beyond low unemployment: Economic growth is at its highest in a decade; core inflation at its lowest in three decades; the largest decline in income inequality since the 1960's; and thanks to the hard work

of the American people, 12 million new jobs. It is now clear that our economy is the strongest it's been in a generation.

Now we have to keep this economic growth going. We have a great opportunity to build a world for our children better than any America has ever known. But my fellow Americans, we must prepare. We have to give Americans the education and skills they need to compete in the global economy. We have to invest in science and technology. We have to continue to get and keep our economic house in order.

To keep our economy growing, we must stay on the path of fiscal responsibility. To make sure all our people can share in this prosperity, we must make sure that a balanced budget also invests in their future. Balancing the budget, investing in our people: we must do both these things. In 1993, many people doubted that it could be done. We have shown that it can be done. And with this budget agreement, a bipartisan budget agreement, we will prove that we can actually balance the budget and continue to invest in our future.

It took weeks of intense negotiations to lead to an agreement that protects our values. A balanced budget with unbalanced values and priorities would not have been enough. There were times when it seemed that we perhaps would never reach this agreement, times when it appeared that we could not secure a balanced budget true to the principles and priorities essential to our future and bringing Democrats