

It will provide tax cuts in research and development to help meet the challenge of global climate change in a way that enables us to grow the economy while actually improving the environment. It continues to support our urban empowerment strategy, bringing more private sector investments to our hardest-pressed cities and neighborhoods while continuing to put 100,000 police officers on the streets and giving our children something to do after school, so more of them can stay out of trouble and on a path to success.

It will leave to future generations the gift of scientific and medical advances. The 21st century research fund, the largest funding increases ever for the National Institute of Health, the National Science Foundation, and the National Cancer Institute, will speed the progress of biomedical breakthroughs in the fight against many of our deadliest diseases.

The budget funds these initiatives by continued cuts in Government programs, by closing unwarranted tax loopholes, and from the passage of tobacco legislation, which, as every passing day shows, is critically important to the future of our children and therefore of our country.

This budget meets the test I set out before Congress last week: no new spending initiatives,

no new tax cuts unless they can actually be accomplished without adding a dime to the deficit. For more than two centuries, Americans have strengthened our Nation at every critical moment with confidence, unity, a determination to meet every challenge. For too long, the budget deficit, a worsening crime wave, the seemingly unsolvable welfare difficulties—they all seemed to challenge our innate American confidence. In the past 5 years, the American people have met these challenges and have moved to master them. Now we have a chance, in a period of peace and prosperity with renewed confidence, to build for the future. That's what this balanced budget does.

Now, it is—I am going to close my remarks now by asking the Vice President to give me a magic marker so that I can be the first person to actually certify what the budget will say for the coming year. Even we can do this. I am technologically challenged; therefore, we're not doing this on a computer. [*Laughter*]

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:44 a.m. in the East Room at the White House. At the end of his remarks, he wrote "\$0!" on a poster labeled "1999 Deficit."

## Statement on Land and Water Conservation Fund Acquisitions

*February 2, 1998*

Last spring, in concluding an historic balanced budget agreement with the Congress, one of my highest priorities was ensuring the funds needed to continue our efforts to protect America's natural treasures. With those funds now appropriated, I am pleased that today Secretaries Babbitt and Glickman are transmitting to Congress a list of sites that are particularly precious to Americans and deserving of our stewardship.

Each of the 100 sites on this list represents an important piece of America's natural and historic legacy. With these acquisitions, we will put the finishing touches on the renowned Appalachian Trail and secure critical winter range for Yellowstone's bison and elk. We will rebuild salmon runs in the Pacific Northwest and protect an ancient caldera in New Mexico that is

home to one of the country's largest elk herds. We will preserve Civil War battlefields where Americans fought and died. We will safeguard vital swaths of this great land literally from coast to coast.

I am extremely proud of our success in preserving Yellowstone, the Everglades, Lake Tahoe, and the red rock canyons of Utah. The budget I submit today to Congress—the first balanced budget in a generation—will allow us to save even more of America's natural and historic treasures. I am confident that with the bipartisan support of Congress, we can continue not only to protect but to restore nature's magnificent gifts. Together, we can assure that future generations know and enjoy this land in all its true splendor.