

warming. It means we have to reform our basic systems, like Medicare and Social Security, that are profoundly important to the future generations, of all ages.

And I will just end on that point. I think that—you know, we hadn't had a surplus in 30 years, so we don't quite know what to do. And a lot of people have good ideas for it, and they are good ideas. There is always another good tax cut. There is always another good spending program. I don't think we ought to spend any of the surplus until we have secured Social Security for the 21st century. That's a big mistake for us not to do that. So that's what we're doing.

And what I would like to ask all of you to think about—just to step back a minute—I have tried to modernize our Democratic Party in this administration and to build an alliance for the 21st century that would make people think that we could be trusted to govern and get good results. But I have also tried to be faithful to the oldest obligations of citizens in this Republic. This is a time of great change. At every time of great change in our country's history, we have come through it stronger and better than ever before because the leaders of America and the people—most importantly the people—have accomplished three things. You go back and think about it—from the founding to the Civil War to the industrial revolution to the Depression to World War II through the cold war to the present day—at every time of challenge and change, three things have been done to make America stronger.

We have at every turn always widened the circle of opportunity, give more people a chance to pursue happiness. At every turn, we have always deepened the meaning of our freedom. Freedom, you could argue, had a very narrow meaning when we started out. It only fully applied to you if you were a white, male property owner. We have deepened the meaning of our freedom. And the third thing we've done is we've strengthened our Union against all the arguments that it was a bad thing for us to draw closer together as one nation. We have rejected them all and gone forward. Over 200 years later, it looks like we did the right thing at every time.

That's what we have a chance to do now. These are good times. It is not the time to sit around and pat ourselves on the back and think about how good times are. This is a time to prepare for a 21st century that will be America's greatest time if we spend these days, when we have been given the luxury, the opportunity, and the responsibility to do so, preparing for that kind of tomorrow.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:54 p.m. in the Harbour Court Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to Gov. Parris N. Glendening of Maryland; Mayor Kurt Schmoke of Baltimore; Leonard Barrack, national finance chair, Democratic National Committee; and Michael Bronfein, owner, Neighborcare Pharmacies.

Statement on Federal Law Enforcement Efforts in the Nevada Biological Materials Case

February 19, 1998

I have been briefed by the Attorney General on today's arrests in Nevada, and we will continue to monitor the situation. I cannot comment on the details of this ongoing law enforcement effort, but let me say this:

All Americans should be deeply grateful to the brave law enforcement officers, especially

the agents of the FBI, for their excellent work in this case. It is important for the American people to understand that their law enforcement officials have this situation under control. All materials have been seized and are being analyzed to determine if they are in any way threatening.