

that is getting smaller and smaller and smaller, it is a very important lesson, indeed.

Finally—I love this quote, so I want to close with it. We have to understand that in a fundamental, moral way we are interconnected not only with nature but with all other people, and that any attempt to define ourselves in a way that elevates us at someone else's expense, any effort anywhere in the world by people to put themselves in a group that can only succeed if they're putting someone else down, is wrong and, in this world, unaffordable. Listen to what Thoreau said: "Let us settle ourselves and work and wedge our feet downward through the mud and slush of prejudice and delusion till we come to a hard bottom and rocks in place which we can call reality."

It is a great mistake to think this man was just a dreamer. Like all truly wise people, he understood that altruism was the ultimate form of enlightened self-interest, that no one can pursue self-interest and material things devoid of a heart or a spirit.

Today we still have a whole lot of "mud and slush of prejudice and delusion" in this and every other society. With all our prosperity, we still can't afford it; there is too much to be done.

So let us hope and pray that Walden Pond will flourish. Let us hope and pray that people will come to these woods forever from now on, to learn not only more about themselves and their relationship with nature but the proper order of human society and the responsibility of every citizen to preserve it. If that happens, Don Henley and all of his cohorts will have given an astounding gift to America's future.

Thank you, and God bless you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 5:30 p.m. on the lawn of the Institute. In his remarks, he referred to musician Don Henley, founder, and Kathi Anderson, executive director, Thoreau Institute; actor Ed Begley, Jr.; singer Tony Bennett; musicians Jimmy Buffett and Joe Walsh; and President Nelson Mandela of South Africa.

Statement on House of Representatives Support for Tobacco Legislation *June 5, 1998*

I am pleased to see that momentum for tobacco legislation is now building in the House of Representatives. The bipartisan comprehensive legislation proposed by Representatives Hansen, Meehan, and Waxman now has over 90 cosponsors committed to reducing youth smoking. This is a good, tough bill. It reaffirms the FDA's full authority over tobacco and includes strong restrictions on advertising and marketing of tobacco products to young people. It contains important protections against expo-

sure to environmental tobacco smoke and tough company-specific surcharges to encourage companies to reduce youth smoking. I look forward to working with Representatives Hansen, Meehan, Waxman and all of their House colleagues to improve this bill in order to protect farmers and farming communities. With this change, I would be pleased to sign this bill. I call upon the House of Representatives to take it up and get down to the serious business of reducing youth smoking in this country.

Statement on the House of Representatives Republican Budget Proposal *June 5, 1998*

Over the past 5 years, we have followed an economic strategy of fiscal discipline coupled with smart investments in education, health care, and the environment. That strategy has eliminated the deficit and helped spur economic

growth and the creation of more than 16 million new jobs. The House Republican budget is an unfortunate step backwards that would mean severe and unnecessary cuts in education, the environment, and health care. At a time when