

they are, we should use the confidence of these good times to take on those big long-term challenges. And that's what you have to think about with these elections coming up.

Who do you really want to be dealing with the challenges of saving Social Security and Medicare for the 21st century? Who do you really trust to do more to build the best public schools in America for all of our children, without regard to their income, their race, or their region of the country? Who do you believe is more likely to get quality, affordable health care for all Americans and say to the HMO's and

to the managed care people, "We want managed care, but we don't want accountants making decisions doctors should make. We want people to get in the emergency room, to see the specialists, to have quality health care when they need it"? The answer is John Edwards. And I'm honored to be in North Carolina with him tonight.

Thank you, and God bless you all. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:15 p.m. in Dorton Arena at the North Carolina State Fairgrounds.

Message to the Congress Transmitting a Report on Efforts To End the Arab League Boycott of Israel

July 30, 1998

To the Congress of the United States:

In accordance with the request contained in section 540 of Public Law 105-118, Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 1998, I submit to you the attached report providing information on steps taken by the United States Government to bring about an end to the Arab League boycott of Israel and to expand the process of nor-

malizing ties between Israel and the Arab League countries.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

The White House,
July 30, 1998.

NOTE: This message was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on July 31.

Remarks on the National Economy and an Exchange With Reporters

July 31, 1998

The President. Good morning. I want to thank the Vice President, Mr. Bowles, and our economic team for joining us today to talk about the continuing strength of our economy and what we have to do to make it stronger as we move toward a new century.

Five and a half years ago, we set a new strategy for the new economy, founded on fiscal discipline, expanded trade, and investment in our people. Today our economy is the strongest in a generation. While the latest economic report shows that growth in the second quarter of 1998 was more moderate than the truly remarkable first quarter, it shows that our economy continues to enjoy steady growth. So far this year, economic growth has averaged 3.5 per-

cent. This is growth the right way, led by business investment and built on a firm foundation of fiscal discipline.

We've also learned today that since I took office the private sector of our economy has grown by nearly 4 percent, while we have reduced the Federal Government to its smallest size in 35 years. Wages are rising. Investment and consumer confidence remain high. Unemployment and inflation remain low. Prosperity and opportunity abound for the American people.

In the long run, we can keep our economy on its strong and prosperous course. Our economic foundation is solid. Our strategy is sound. Still, we know from events that, more than ever,