

economy that offers opportunity to all, a society rooted in responsibility, and a nation that lives as a community with each other and with the rest of the world.

Again, I want to say to all the economic team how much I appreciate the special and the difficult work we have done these last 3 months as our country has coped with the General Motors strike, which, thank goodness, has now concluded on successful terms, and with the problems in Asia and elsewhere.

Thank you very much.

President's Testimony

Q. Mr. President—

Q. Mr. President—

The President. Wait, wait, wait. Everybody has got a question. Let me give you the answer to all of them.

Q. You didn't hear—

The President. I know—yes, I did. I heard all of you shouting about it.

No one wants to get this matter behind us more than I do—except maybe all the rest of the American people. I am looking forward to the opportunity in the next few days of testifying. I will do so completely and truthfully. I am anxious to do it. But I hope you can understand why, in the interim, I can and should have no further comment on these matters.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:57 a.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi and Finance Minister Kiichi Miyazawa of Japan.

Statement on Senate Action on Job Training Reform Legislation July 31, 1998

For years now, I have been fighting for a “GI bill” for America’s workers to modernize job training for the economy of the next century. I appreciate the bipartisan effort in the Senate that led to passage of legislation to do just that last night. This bill will make sure that job training in America helps our people meet the demands of a rapidly changing economy. I hope the House will continue this bipartisan effort to give Americans new training opportunities designed for the cutting-edge jobs of the future.

This legislation will fundamentally reform job training by empowering individuals to learn new skills with a simple skill grant. It also consolidates the tangle of training programs; creates a network of One-Stop Career Centers; in-

creases accountability to ensure results; allows States and communities to tailor programs to locally determined needs; and ensures that business, labor, and community organizations are full partners in system design and quality assurance. It targets vocational and adult education funds to educational agencies and institutions with the greatest need, and to activities that promote program quality. It improves the vocational rehabilitation program by streamlining eligibility determination, improving State planning, and strengthening program accountability. And it includes the youth opportunity areas initiative—which was funded in last year’s appropriations process—that will create jobs and opportunity for out-of-school youth in high-poverty areas.

Statement on Congressional Action on Job Training Reform Legislation July 31, 1998

I am pleased that both Houses of Congress have now passed a comprehensive bill to give Americans new opportunities and choices to train for the jobs of the future. This bill will

modernize job training to fit the needs of today’s economy, and I appreciate the bipartisan spirit that prevailed in getting that done. Modeled on my “GI bill” for America’s workers, this new