

those four issues—and look, they’ve had 8 months—we’ve got one appropriation bill; they killed campaign finance reform, and they killed the tobacco legislation. Near as I can tell, that’s the record of the last 8 months.

Now, that is what this is about. It is not about me; it is about the people of this country. It is about their children, their future, and our common efforts. I am going to do everything I can to fight for these things and to fight to help people who believe in them get elected. That’s what you’re doing here.

And what I want to say to you is, when you leave here, I don’t want you to let a day go by that you don’t talk to somebody about what our common responsibilities as citizens are and what is really at stake here, in very specific terms.

We’re not particularly cynical, we Democrats. We believe we can always do better; we believe we have a responsibility to do better; and I think that it would be a very good thing if a few more of us were in the United States Congress now. The voters who used to worry about us who said that we couldn’t be trusted with the budget, now they know that we can, and they can’t. The voters that used to worry and say we couldn’t be trusted to manage the economy know that that’s not true; that we were weak on crime, know that’s not true—all those things they used to say about us.

So now we’re free to look to the future, and you have to tell voters our enemy is not adversity here; our enemy is complacency. We have to say to people, “Look at what’s going on down there in Washington. This is about us and our future. Washington always thinks everything’s about Washington. It’s not about Washington; it’s about America. And it’s about these issues.”

It’s about our ability to lead the world toward peace and freedom and prosperity. And it’s about our ability to do what needs to be done

to strengthen this country at home for a new century. If you just remember those 4 issues—there’s 40 more—but those 4 will carry us a long way. Go out and hammer and hammer and hammer and hammer and tell people to show up.

Basically, the strategy of the other side is, it’s a midterm election and our group doesn’t vote as often as their group does. And so if everybody is sort of generally happy and there’s a lot of static in the atmosphere and our base of voters don’t go vote, then they win—and if they have more money. They always have more money.

So what you’re saying is, you don’t want them to have so much more money that we can’t get our message out. And I thank you for that. But you must also be messengers. You must really talk to people about it. You’ve got to look your friends and neighbors dead in the eye and tell them this is a big election for this country. This is a huge choice about the direction of America in what is the last election of the 20th century. And if you will give them the specific examples of the Patients’ Bill of Rights, the education issue, the saving Social Security, and exercising our leadership in the world economy to protect the American economy’s growth at home, I think you’ll be quite pleased with the results. And it will have been worth all of this to all of us.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:05 p.m. at a private residence. In his remarks, he referred to luncheon hosts Stanley M. Chesley and Richard D. Lawrence; Mayor Roxanne Qualls of Cincinnati; Chris Gorman, candidate for Kentucky’s Third Congressional District; Lt. Gov. Stephen L. Henry of Kentucky; David J. Leland, chairman, Ohio Democratic Party; and Timothy M. Burke, chairman, Hamilton County Democratic Party.

Letter to Congressional Leaders Transmitting a Report on Implementation of the Partnership For Peace

September 17, 1998

Dear _____:

In accordance with section 514(a) of Public Law 103–236 (22 U.S.C. 1928(a)), I am submit-

ting to you this report on implementation of the Partnership for Peace (PFP).

As noted in last year's report to the Congress, the PFP has been a critical tool in helping all the Partners, regardless of their desire to join NATO, to build stronger ties with the Alliance and develop closer cooperative relationships with all their neighbors. As you will see from the attached report, NATO Allies and Partners have managed to create a fundamentally different Partnership through the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council (EAPC) and PFP enhancements.

The EAPC and the PFP have provided means for incorporating partners into NATO's operation in Bosnia, assisting Macedonia in developing its armed forces, and by building cooperation and confidence among Partners in South-eastern Europe, which has both insulated them from the Kosovo crisis and enabled them to

help NATO deal with Kosovo's destabilizing effects. Enhancements to the PFP, which are nearly fully implemented, provide a solid foundation for closer NATO-Partner collaboration and a mechanism for Partners to develop the interoperability with NATO that will be necessary for future NATO-led Allied/Partners missions.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to Jesse Helms, chairman, and Joseph R. Biden, Jr., ranking member, Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, Benjamin A. Gilman, chairman, and Lee H. Hamilton, ranking member, House Committee on International Relations.

Remarks at a Unity '98 Dinner in Boston, Massachusetts September 17, 1998

Thank you very much. Well, this has been good. [*Laughter*] I kept watching these guys come up here, just turning up the temperature one after the other. It's been really great.

Let me say to all of you, first of all, thank you for your wonderful, wonderful welcome to me and to the Vice President. I thank all the people responsible for this dinner. I thank the Schusters, the Solomonts; thank you, Jack and Lyle; all the people at the tables who did all the work—all of you, thank you so much.

I want to thank the Massachusetts Democratic Party. Joan, thank you and all of your cohorts for what you have done. I thank Steve Grossman for doing an absolutely magnificent job, and his wife, Barbara, and his family and his co-workers, for putting up with it and enduring it all these long months. It has meant more than I will ever be able to say.

I want to thank all the nominees who are here for all the offices in Massachusetts. It could be good to have "Congressman" Capuano here pretty soon down in Washington. And I want to thank especially your Attorney General, Scott Harshbarger, for making this race for Governor. And I want you to make it a good race, a winning race. It's important to America; it's important to Massachusetts; and I want you to help him.

I also want to say a special word of thanks to Tom Menino, not only for being a remarkable mayor of Boston but for being so incredibly generous with his time in showing the rest of the country, and in allowing our administration to showcase to the rest of the country, the good work that has been done in Boston, especially in trying to save the lives and build the lives of the most vulnerable children of this city. He deserves a great deal of gratitude from all of us.

I really wish I didn't have to say anything tonight because I have enjoyed so much what has already been said, and I'm afraid I'll just mess it up. But I would like to thank John Kerry for what he said and for the conviction with which he said it. He and Teresa have been very good friends to Hillary and to me. And I think that—the thing I always think about when I talk with John is, no matter what the subject is, I never finish a conversation with him that he doesn't ask whether what we're really doing is right for the children. Is it the right thing for the children? When he always points out there's something wrong with our country when the poverty rate of the children is twice the rate of poverty in the country as a whole. There is something wrong when we're not doing more to save our kids, and we're