

in Florida. You've got people in all the house-trailers and coming out of the windows in these old schools, and there are more kids than ever before in the schools but a smaller percent of the parents owning property and being in the—elections than ever before. And I think—we've got the money; we ought to have some tax relief here and some direct funding to help repair these schools and modernize them. It's a big issue. I think it's important.

So, we're for that, and they're not. So there are big differences in the economy, health care, education; big differences in the environment; big differences in crime; big differences in how we go about living together on equal terms. We're for strengthening the equal pay for equal work law for women. We're for a hate crimes bill that covers everybody, and they're not.

So I believe, on all these issues, in addition to what Corrine does for the district, she's right, and they're not. That's what I believe. If you believe that and if you believe the same about the Presidential race, then it's very important that between now and election, you give her some more money if you can, because she's being outspent. But beyond that, you think about all the people you come in contact with every day who are your friends. Some are Democrats; some are Republicans; some are independents. Nearly every one of them intends to vote. Almost none of them come to things like this. Is that right? Most of your friends never come to events like this and would never have a chance to have an encounter like this.

So I think it's very important that in addition to everything else, if you just make up your mind that part of the duties of citizenship for you—since you came here, you heard this, you know something about it already, otherwise you wouldn't be helping her—is that every day between now and the election you're going to take a little time to talk to somebody. You might make the difference in whether they vote or

not. You might make the difference in the person they vote for.

Because the most important thing—I've always believed if the American people have enough time and enough information, they nearly always get it right. Otherwise, we wouldn't still be here as the oldest democracy in the world. We'd be on the ash can of history. We'd be history. And the reason we're still here doing better is, not necessarily—not primarily because of the leaders but primarily because people are pretty smart, and they're fundamentally good, and our system is fundamentally wise. And freedom works, but for it to work, people have to have enough information and enough time to digest it, and they have to understand what the differences are and the nature of their choice.

So the way I want you to think about this is: Confusion about the choice helps them; clarity about the choice helps us. I believe that with all my heart. I think if people say, "I want somebody that will meet the big challenges of the future. I want somebody that understands the future. I want somebody that supported the right kind of change in the past, and here are the choices before me in the economy and education and health care, the environment, crime, the whole 9 yards," we win, if they understand.

You can help that. So I want to ask you for her, for Al Gore and Joe Lieberman, for Bill Nelson, go out there and make sure people understand with clarity the choice before them. If you do, trust the people will have a great celebration the night of November 7th.

Thank you, and God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:40 p.m. in Boardroom A at the Prime Osborne Convention Center. In his remarks, he referred to Bill Nelson, candidate for U.S. Senate in Florida. Representative Brown was a candidate for reelection in Florida's Third Congressional District.

Statement on Smaller Learning Communities Grants

October 4, 2000

I am pleased that today the U.S. Department of Education is awarding \$42.3 million in grants to help school districts create Smaller Learning

Communities in large high schools across the country. Nearly three-quarters of American high schools have more than 1000 students enrolled,

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and the grants announced today will help States and local communities create smaller learning environments to enhance the safety and academic achievement of our Nation's teenagers. The Vice President and I have a longstanding commitment to ensuring that all children have access to a first-class education, and these grants provide support to State and local communities to work toward this goal by investing in what works. We know that smaller schools provide more personal attention and greater academic support than larger schools and outperform large schools on most measures of school success, including grades, test scores, attendance, and graduation rates—and this impact is even greater for minority and low-income students.

Today I challenge Congress to extend the benefits of Smaller Learning Communities to more districts and schools by funding this program at the \$120 million level proposed in my FY 2001 budget. Right now, the Republican leadership has proposed an education budget that shortchanges America's students by flat-funding the Smaller Learning Communities Program, and by failing to provide adequate funds to: reduce class size; improve teacher quality; turn around failing schools; expand after-school opportunities; build and modernize new schools; help students prepare for college through GEAR UP; and make college more accessible and affordable for all Americans. Congress must act now so that our children can receive the first-class education they deserve.

Statement on Senate Passage of the “Breast and Cervical Cancer Act of 1999”

October 4, 2000

I am extremely pleased that the Senate unanimously passed legislation today providing an important new health coverage option to low-income, uninsured women with breast cancer. With passage of the “Breast and Cervical Cancer Act of 1999,” the Senate has virtually assured that the Congress will present me with legislation that I was pleased to include in this year's budget and that I will be proud to sign into

law. I would like to thank my wife, Hillary, for her constant advocacy on behalf of this legislation. Her longstanding advocacy for women with breast cancer is well known and has been the inspiration behind this administration's unwavering commitment to this issue. I look forward to final passage of this important bill and the new security it will provide for thousands of women with breast cancer.

Remarks at a Reception for Congressional Candidate John J. Kelly

October 4, 2000

Let me say, first of all, I'm here for several reasons. One is, whatever I've been able to accomplish these last 8 years would have been impossible without the support of the Democratic Members of Congress. And in some ways, their support when we were in the minority in Congress has been even more vital than when we were in the majority, because if they stick with me, we can still do most of what we want to do for America.

As some evidence of how important this race is to them, we have one of the true leaders

of our Democratic caucus, Representative Nancy Pelosi from California, is here. Thank you, and Representative Brad Sherman from California back there. Congressman David Minge from Minnesota was here; he just walked out. Is anybody else here, Tom? Is anybody else here? I don't want to make anybody mad. *[Laughter]* I'm getting to you.

I also—I want to thank Tom Udall, who took me around Santa Fe a few days ago. We had a wonderful time, and I actually got to do something I rarely do. I got to shop a little. And