

Bill of Rights and to eat a little barbecue. Mel made sure we went in the kitchen and shook hands with the people there. He never let me forget that just because I wasn't running again, I was still a public servant.

I am grateful—grateful—that I knew Mel Carnahan. I am grateful that we had the chance to work together. He left us too early, but he had a great ride. He had a wonderful wife, devoted children, people who believed in public service. Robin worked in our administration for a while, and I'm grateful for that. And I think we should remember him with this admonition of Saint Paul to the Galatians: "While we have time, let us do good."

I spoke the other day to a congregation of bishops of the Church of God in Christ, and I made the mistake of saying I was glad to be with them because, unlike me, they weren't term-limited. And the head bishop stood up and said, "Mr. President, we are all term-limited."

So if he were here—and in a way, he is—he would say, "Okay, so I had a lot more I wanted to do, but I had a good ride. And it's not so bad being up there. The boys are good company, and I'm looking down on you. You know what to do. While you have time, do good."

We'll miss you, Mel. We'll try to take up the slack, but we'll not have another one like you. God bless you, and Godspeed.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:57 p.m. on the South Grounds of the State Capitol. In his remarks, he referred to Governor Carnahan's widow, Jean, and their children Robin, Tom, and Russ, and Russ' wife, Debra; and Governor Carnahan's successor Roger B. Wilson, and his wife, Pat. Governor Carnahan died in a plane crash south of St. Louis on October 16 while traveling to a campaign event with his son Roger (Randy) and his senior adviser, Chris Sifford.

Statement on the General Motors Announcement on Hybrid Vehicle Fuel Economy

October 20, 2000

I congratulate General Motors on the news today that its Precept hybrid vehicle has achieved fuel economy of 80 miles per gallon. This extraordinary achievement is the result in part of a Government/industry effort, the Partnership for a New Generation of Vehicles, begun by Vice President Gore in 1994. The goal set then, in the face of strong skepticism, was to triple average fuel economy. This car meets that test.

Today's announcement is further evidence that the investments in clean energy technologies we have made over the last 8 years are paying off. The benefits of these investments include not only improved gas mileage and a cleaner environment but also reduced dependence on foreign oil. These technologies are a cornerstone of this administration's effective and

forward-looking energy and environmental policy.

Indeed, while America's gross domestic product has grown by more than 20 percent over the last 5 years, energy usage has increased by less than 8 percent. This trend of reduced energy intensity in our economy is critical to ensuring a healthy environment and strong, sustainable economic growth.

But we must do more. Unfortunately, Congress has refused to act on our package of consumer tax credits—including credits of up to \$4,000 for consumers to purchase the next generation of fuel-efficient vehicles. At a time that America's business leaders are making headlines every day with new investments in clean energy technologies, it is time that Congress joins us in these important efforts to strengthen America's energy security.