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"Pizza Connection" case. The trial lasted over a year. Among other defendants, Judge Freeh sent the head of the Sicilian mafia to jail. Observers were dazzled. He was called, and I quote, "one of the Government's toughest investigators, a ramrod-straight and ferocious crusader against the mob, an investigative genius."

Three years ago, as Judge Freeh neared the end of his work as a prosecutor, the Department of Justice selected him to head a special task force in one of the most notorious and difficult criminal cases of our day. A mysterious bomber was at work in the South, mailing parcels that killed Federal Judge Robert Vance near Birmingham, Alabama, and civil rights leader Robbie Robinson in Savannah, Georgia. Many predicted that the case would never be solved. But led by Louis Freeh, the task force tracked down the bomber, and Freeh himself prosecuted the case and obtained convictions. The bomber is now serving seven life terms in prison. In recognition of his service to the law, President Bush appointed Louis Freeh to the Federal bench. Now Judge Freeh has agreed to leave that lifetime post to serve his Nation once again in a difficult new job. There are few jobs in our Government that are more important.

Our Federal law enforcement agencies face an ever-changing array of threats. Drugs continue to ravage our young people and our streets. Law-abiding citizens can be caught in the crossfire between gangs, today equipped like armies. White-collar swindlers practice inventive forms of what Al Capone once called "the legitimate rackets." And our Nation, so long immune from the terrorism that has plagued the world, now faces that threat, too.

With Attorney General Janet Reno, Drug Policy Coordinator Lee Brown, and now, we hope, FBI Director Louis Freeh, our administration has a street-smart front line against crime. These law enforcers did not learn about crime in theory books, they learned about it on the streets and in the courtroom. And they have learned the best lessons of State and local enforcers. With all of their hard-won experience, this crimefighting team can work hard every day to protect the American people's right to safety in their homes and in their communities.

I must tell you that I am very proud and very grateful that Judge Freeh was willing to leave his lifetime appointment on the Federal bench for the somewhat less secure work that the rest of us find in the executive branch. [*Laughter*] I hope the American people will be grateful as well, and I look forward to his speedy confirmation.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:27 a.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House.

Exchange With Reporters Prior to a Meeting With Congressional Leaders

July 20, 1993

Q. Mr. President, do you think that Chairman Rostenkowski's legal problems will have any effect on the budget process?

The President. No. We've got a lot of work to do. Chairman Rostenkowski's done a great job with this budget so far, and we've worked very closely together. And we're going to work today. I don't know anything about the rest of it. I just know that we're going to work. That's what we all got hired to do, and we're going to do our job.

Energy Tax

Q. Are you ready to give up on an energy tax?

The President. No.

Q. Does an energy tax have to be part of the program? There's a lot of move on Capitol Hill against it.

The President. I know it. But if you look at all the numbers, it's hard to get there without it. So, I think we ought to——

NOTE: The exchange began at 12:41 p.m. in the Old Family Dining Room at the White House. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

Remarks to Democratic Members of the House of Representatives

July 20, 1993

Thank you very much, Mr. Vice President, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Leader. Ladies and gentlemen, as all of you know I have just spent several days away from Washington, stopping along the way to look at the floods in Iowa and going through California to meet with the National Education Association and then on to Japan where I met with the leaders of the seven large industrial nations of the world, which included an agreement to reduce tariffs by historic rates, agreed to continue our common efforts to promote democracy and economic progress in Russia, and reached an agreement with Japan that, for the first time, convinced the Japanese explicitly to reduce dramatically their trade surplus with us and to work with us with specific numerical objective criteria to deal with that problem. Then I went to Korea to see our young men and women in uniform there defending freedom at a distant outpost. I got within about 10 yards of the dividing line between North and South Korea, the Bridge of No Return, then flew back through Hawaii to see the many, many thousands of sailors there at Pearl Harbor along with the leaders of our military in the Pacific Command. And then I came back with Leader Gephardt on Saturday to go to St. Louis to visit the Governors who have been victimized by the floods, and their people have.

All these trips have a common thread, as disparate as they were. I had an opportunity to see people who were serving this country and people who are living here and working hard, making our jobs possible. And I was immensely moved, as I always am, by the incredible character and courage and good common sense of the American people.

Now, we come here at a difficult time for the country and for the world. The world is in a significant economic crisis. All the wealthier countries of the world are facing difficulties in creating new jobs. For a very long time there has been a kind of political paralysis in this country where we always knew what we had to do, but we could never quite bring ourselves to do it. And because we had divided Government, it was always possible for one branch to blame the other one for what did not get done. And the worse the problem got, the more painful their solutions became. That is always the way in human life, not just in Government but in every part of our lives.

Now, because of your help and the leadership and the raw courage many of you have demonstrated, we've brought our country to the verge of fundamental economic change. In just 6 months we have certainly changed the nature of the economic debate here in our Nation's Capital. The new direction that I discussed with you in February in the State of the Union Address is at hand. Once, a President joked that the deficit he created was big enough to take care of itself. Now no one jokes about it, and no one doubts that we are about the serious business of reducing that deficit and the stranglehold it has on our ability to create better times now and to provide a better future for our children.

Rather than debating whether to ignore the deficit, we have now begun a serious discussion about how to really bring it down. That is leading change, not going along with events. Where once Presidents sent you budgets that were not worth the paper they were printed on, now we have a real economic plan that, for all the controversy, is moving through Congress at a record pace.

I am amused now when I read that the difficult tough choices that I have asked the Congress to make are passing with narrow margins in our majority party when last year 75 percent of the House Members of the other party voted against their own President's budget and for years Presidential budgets have been political documents, not serious attempts to turn this country around.

Now we are involved in a serious attempt to do that, you and I leading the change. Where once the other party taxed middle class people so that those in upper income groups would not have to pay even their fair share, we have a plan that asks those that benefited most in the 1980's and whose taxes went down then to pay their fair share, not because we want to punish success but because it is the American way to ask everyone to pay according to their ability to do so. That is what the middle class demands, and that is a change we are making.