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mad and upset and fuming, ask them to relax, take a deep breath, look at the pretty fall coming on, and talk about your country. The people of this country will do the right thing if they know the facts. And each of you should make a personal commitment to doing that, not only for them but for these kids here. You can do it. Turn the lights on. You can do it.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:36 p.m. in the Flag Pavilion Room at the Seattle Center. In his remarks, he referred to Larry Brown, Boeing machinist; John Manning, Seattle police officer; Mikelle Mathers, AmeriCorps volunteer; Mayor Norman B. Rice of Seattle; and Harriet Spanel and Ron Sims, congressional candidates. A portion of these remarks could not be verified because the tape was incomplete.

Remarks on the Office of Management and Budget Memorandum in Seattle

October 23, 1994

I'd like to make a very brief statement about the Alice Rivlin memo on the options for deficit reduction.

First of all, my position is what it was in the campaign of '92 and what it has been through the first 2 budget years. I do not support cuts in Social Security, and I believe any savings we achieve in the Medicare program should be used in health care. That has always been my position.

The memo was a list of options that grew out of a consideration of what might be the recommendations of the Kerrey commission, what might come out of the budgeting process next year, and the kinds of problems that might be created if the Republican contract that the Republican House leader and the Senate leader and others have embraced. We have serious problems with the deficit still, in the future because of the escalating costs of health care. And if they were to have a huge tax cut for the wealthy, increase defense, increase Star Wars, we would be looking at an explosion in the deficit that could only be dealt with with massive cuts in other programs, all other programs.

But there is nothing in that memo and nothing in the record which should indicate that I have changed my position on these two fundamental issues.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:13 p.m. at the Seattle Center.

Remarks on the Office of Management and Budget Memorandum in Seattle

October 23, 1994

I've been—when I gave my statement over there one of you asked me a question—and I left—about Mr. Gingrich's charge that it was hypocritical for someone to have a memo which speculated about the recommendations that the Kerrey commission and others might have.

Now, I've told you what my position is. And my position is, I haven't and don't support cuts in Social Security, and I would support savings in the Medicare program only if they're used to advance the cause of health care.

Now, Mr. Gingrich has leveled a charge which is not right. It doesn't have anything to do with how the list came about. But he can solve this whole problem if he would say what I said. So just ask him if he and Senator Dole will say what I said. Will they say they support—they don't support cuts in Social Security, and they won't support using Medicare savings for anything other than helping health care?

If they have the same position, they can make this issue go away. Then they have to answer, what about their trillion dollar contract, because they will explode the deficit by a trillion dollars and start sending jobs overseas again.

The answer to this is for him to say what I have said to you today. So ask him if he'll take the same position. And then the only question is whether he's going to abandon his contract for all these tax cuts and spending increases.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at approximately 3:45 p.m. at the King County Airport. In his remarks, he referred to House Republican whip Newt Gingrich. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Statement on Signing the Bankruptcy Reform Act of 1994

October 22, 1994

The ''Bankruptcy Reform Act of 1994,'' H.R. 5116, stands out as a significant achievement of the 103rd Congress, and I am pleased today to sign this measure into law. Breaking through years of gridlock that prevented the enactment of meaningful bankruptcy reform legislation, the chief sponsors of this measure worked tirelessly on a bipartisan basis with the Justice Department and other agencies of this Administration to pass this bill. Senator Howell Heflin, Chairman of the Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on Courts and Administrative Practice, Senator Charles Grassley, Ranking Member of that Subcommittee, House Judiciary Committee Chairman Jack Brooks, Congressman Hamilton Fish, Jr., Ranking Member of that Committee, Congressman Mike Synar, and their respective staffs are to be commended for their efforts.

This is the most broad-based bankruptcy reform measure to be signed into law in 16 years. Bankruptcy plays a pivotal role in the dynamic American economy and is a critical element of our civil justice system. The Act will update the bankruptcy system so that it may better serve the needs of debtors and creditors, from individuals and small business owners to large corporations and financial institutions. The role of government agencies in bankruptcy proceedings will also be clarified, assuring enhanced collection of debts owed to the public treasury.

Of particular significance are the provisions of this Act directed at accelerating the reorganization process for small businesses. The current version of chapter 11, which embodies a single set of procedures for all types of reorganizations, has proven to be particularly burdensome and time consuming to both small business debtors and creditors, resulting in unnecessary costs and delays. The Act will create a simplified ''fast-track'' system for businesses with debts totaling less than $2 million, meaning far quicker and less costly disposition of approximately 70 percent of the business reorganizations handled by the bankruptcy system. This is precisely the kind of reform that will restore public faith in the ability of our courts to perform in a timely and cost-effective manner.

This Act also expands the use of ''consumer reorganizations,'' allowing individuals with debts up to $1 million to file for bankruptcy under chapter 13. This provision provides an alternative to the harsher process of liquidation while maintaining safeguards against fraud and abuse.

I am also pleased to note the enactment of new bankruptcy fraud measures. Creation of a criminal bankruptcy fraud offense will enhance the integrity of the bankruptcy process and give prosecutors new tools to use against those who would abuse the system.

Finally, and perhaps of the greatest, long-range importance, is the creation of a National Bankruptcy Review Commission to study and report on the issues and problems relating to bankruptcy. Beyond the numerous specific deficiencies in the Bankruptcy Code, it is also time to look at critical policy issues concerning the bankruptcy system. These issues include the relationship of the bankruptcy system to the health of the economy in general and of individual communities, the interaction between bankruptcy law and other legal disciplines, and encouraging the use of alternatives to litigation. I look forward to the expeditious appointment of members of the Commission, drawn from diverse backgrounds of legal, academic, business, and practical experience.

William J. Clinton

The White House,
October 22, 1994.

NOTE: H.R. 5116, approved October 22, was assigned Public Law No. 103–394. This statement was released by the Office of the Press on October 24.

Interview With Chuck Meyer of WWWE Radio in Cleveland, Ohio

October 24, 1994

Mr. Meyer. President Clinton, good morning and welcome to Cleveland. President Clinton, can you hear me?

The President. I can. Can you hear me?