

Statement on the Centers for Disease Control's Report on Tobacco and Youth

February 15, 1996

This week at the White House, I heard directly from a group of children about the easy access and allure of cigarettes.

This report is further evidence that parents need all the help they can get in their daily struggle to keep our kids tobacco-free.

Every day, more than 3,000 young people become regular smokers. Nearly a thousand of them will have their lives shortened because of tobacco-related illnesses. Smoking is the leading cause of preventable death in this country, contributing to more than 30 percent of all cancer deaths.

Let me be clear: This administration will continue to lead the fight to help parents protect children from the hazards of tobacco addiction.

NOTE: The CDC report was entitled, "Access of Tobacco Products to Youths Aged 12–17 Years."

Message on the Interim Report of the Presidential Advisory Committee on Gulf War Veterans' Illnesses

February 15, 1996

*Memorandum for the Secretary of Defense,
the Secretary of Health and Human Services,
the Secretary of Veterans Affairs*

*Subject: Interim Report of the Presidential
Advisory Committee on Gulf War Veterans'
Illnesses*

On May 26, 1995, I established the Presidential Advisory Committee on Gulf War Veterans' Illnesses to review and provide recommendations on the full range of government activities relating to Gulf War veterans' illnesses. The Committee has now released its interim report, which you have reviewed and forwarded for my attention.

I am pleased that the Committee's interim report recognizes the serious efforts underway in the Administration to respond to the health concerns of Desert Storm veterans, and I thank you for your close cooperation with the Committee as it fulfills its charge. I trust that you will continue to work closely

with the Committee as it prepares its final report.

I also request that you carefully review the recommendations and report back to me promptly with your plans for implementing the recommendations. As I said last March when announcing my intention to establish the Advisory Committee, we will leave no stone unturned in our efforts to determine the causes of the illnesses experienced by Gulf War veterans and to provide the best possible medical care to those who are ill.

William J. Clinton

Remarks at a Fundraising Dinner in New York City

February 15, 1996

Thank you so very much. I told the Vice President when we were outside and James Earl Jones was speaking that we ought to go out here and smile and quit while we're ahead. [Laughter] And I did tell him, I confess, that I thought it was kind of a bad deal that he got to be introduced by James Earl Jones and he introduces me all the time. But James Earl Jones fails the first test of Presidential introductions that the Vice President passes with flying colors, which is, whenever possible, always, always be introduced by someone you have appointed to high office. [Laughter]

Don't you think it's wonderful what a sense of humor the Vice President has developed? I think—I actually resent it myself. [Laughter] I used to have a sense of humor, but they told me it wasn't Presidential. So, like everything else that's really enjoyable, the Vice President gets to do it. [Laughter]

Let me say to all of you who are here, to the people who cochaired this dinner and all those who sold tickets and all of you who have come out on this third-time's-the-charm—[laughter]—to the leaders of the Democratic Party who are here; to James Earl Jones, who I admire very much; I thank you for being here and for your wonderful words and for your support. To Leslie Gore, and to the orchestra, all the musicians, I thought they were terrific. And I think it's okay if Leslie Gore tells people she's kin to Al. After I became President, I found out