

to deal with the challenges of terrorism and drug running and weapons smuggling and the proliferation of chemical and biological weapons and global environmental threats where Helmut Kohl has been very outspoken, we cannot do this alone. If you want your children to have a system in which everybody who will work can have an opportunity and a system in which we can solve the new security problems of the 21st century, we cannot do it alone. The United States has to have friends and allies, and we have no better friend and ally anywhere in the world than Helmut Kohl of Germany, my friend, and I thank him for being here today.

And thank you all. God bless you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1 p.m. in the Pere Marquette Park. In his remarks, he referred to German Immersion School students, Jasmine Brantley, who introduced the President, and John "J.P." Tucker, who introduced Chancellor Helmut Kohl; Gov. Tommy Thompson of Wisconsin; County Executive Thomas Ament, Milwaukee County; Mayor John O. Norquist of Milwaukee; Attorney General James Doyle of Wisconsin. Following the President's remarks, German Chancellor Helmut Kohl addressed the community.

Statement on House Passage of the Minimum Wage Legislation

May 23, 1996

I commend the House for responding to my challenge and voting to give millions of America's hardest workers a raise.

A bipartisan majority rejected the efforts of the Republican leadership and recognized that raising the minimum wage is the right thing to do. You can't raise a family on \$4.25 an hour.

I am also pleased that the House rejected an effort to defraud the American people with a provision that would have eliminated the minimum wage altogether, as well as overtime protections, for workers hired at fully two-thirds of American businesses. For millions of American workers, this hoax would actually have meant lower wages and even a return to sweatshop conditions.

Senator Dole should bring the minimum wage to the Senate floor for a clean up-or-down vote before he leaves office. That is

the way to honor our values of work, family, opportunity, and responsibility.

Statement on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Report on Adolescent Tobacco Use

May 23, 1996

Regarding the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Report: "Tobacco Use and Usual Source of Cigarettes Among High School Students—United States, 1995:"

Today's report is disturbing proof that more and more young teenagers are becoming lifelong smokers and too little is being done to prevent illegal tobacco sales to them. The significant increase in smoking among young African-American men is of particular concern.

Parents and communities need tough and enforceable measures to combat the easy access and appeal of cigarettes to children. My administration remains committed to preventing adolescent decisions from becoming lifelong addictions. I ask all Americans to support strong measures that will effectively address the growing problem of tobacco use by our children.

Message to the Congress Transmitting the "Retirement Savings and Security Act"

May 23, 1996

To the Congress of the United States:

I am pleased to transmit today for the consideration of the Congress the "Retirement Savings and Security Act." This legislation is designed to empower all Americans to save for their retirement by expanding pension coverage, increasing portability, and enhancing security. By using both employer and individual tax-advantaged retirement savings programs, Americans can benefit from the opportunities of our changing economy while assuring themselves and their families greater security for the future. A general explanation of the Act accompanies this transmittal.

Today, over 58 million American public and private sector workers are covered by employer-sponsored pension or retirement