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NOTE: The President spoke at 7:30 p.m. in the gymnasium at Norristown Area High School. In his remarks, he referred to Rev. Charles D. Williams, pastor, Mt. Zion AME Church, who gave the invocation; Dr. Michael V. Woodall, superintendent, Norristown Area School District; Barry E. Spencer, principal, Norristown Area High School; Melissa Ghoston, president, Norristown Area School Student Council; Tommy Lasorda, former Dodgers manager and member of the Baseball Hall of Fame; Mike Piazza, catcher, New York Mets; and Yogi Berra, former Yankee manager and player and member of the Baseball Hall of Fame. The transcript made available by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of Vice President Al Gore.

## Remarks to an Overflow Crowd in Norristown, Pennsylvania

*January 20, 1999*

Thank you very much. You know, I felt, even when I thought there were just a couple of hundred people here, I felt so badly for you having to wait and wait and wait.

But let me tell you, you should know at least it is a lot cooler in here than it is in there. We have had a wonderful, wonderful time here. We are very grateful to all of you for coming out, for supporting your schools, supporting your communities, supporting your country, and we thank you so much. And of course, just personally, it's meant a great deal to Al and Tipper and to Hillary and me to see you here and see you so enthusiastic about the future.

I want you to remember how you feel tonight, and I want you to keep it with you all year long. We've got a lot to do, and it's going to be good for America.

God bless you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:58 p.m. in the auditorium at the Norristown Area High School. The transcript made available by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of Vice President Al Gore and Representative Joseph M. Hoeffel.

## Remarks on the Initiative To Provide a Qualified Teacher in Every Classroom

*January 21, 1999*

Well, Sergeant, I don't think I need to say anything else. [*Laughter*]

Let me thank all of you for coming today and welcome you here. This is the 21st year of a partnership in education that involves Hillary and me and Secretary Riley. We all started working together in 1979, and we've been at it a good while now. Few things that I have ever been a part of have given—sort of thrilled me more than just listening to Arthur Moore talk. And I'm sure all of you felt the same way.

I thank the Members of Congress who are here and all the other distinguished guests. I would like to recognize just three: first, we have here the President of the Navaho Nation, Kelsey Begaye; and Samuel Penney, the chairman of the Nez Perce Tribal Executive Committee; and Arthur Moore's daughter, Andrea, is here, and she must have been awful proud of her father today, and I know he's proud of her. So we welcome all of them.

After the Soviet Union launched *Sputnik* in October of 1957, President Eisenhower asked the Congress to rise to the challenge of the times and proposed a new Federal program to help public school teachers improve their math and science instruction. He understood that teaching is an important part of our national security. And I think, therefore, that President Eisenhower—and General Eisenhower—would have been very pleased to see Arthur Moore as a soldier-turned-teacher.

Two days ago, in the State of the Union Address, I asked Congress to rise to the demands of this time, to pass an ''Education Accountability Act'' that would offer more investment, demand more accountability, and not as some have implied, have the Federal Government try to run more of our day-to-day activities in our public schools but simply have the Federal Government respond to what the teachers of this country and the