

that again: 9 times higher than the next 25 industrial countries combined—together.

So we've still got a lot of work to do. And I guess what I want to tell you is, I'm grateful that I had a chance to serve. I'm not running for anything. I'm here—I kind of wish I were, actually, but I'm not. [*Laughter*] And I'm here, I'm here because I care about my country. I care about my daughter's world. I care about the grandchildren I hope to have someday. And we've turned this country around.

In my lifetime, we have never had a chance like this. When President Kennedy and President Johnson served, we had a good economy, but they had to deal with the crisis of civil rights and the problems of the cold war.

We have an opportunity not just to eliminate legal discrimination—which we ought to continue to do with the “Employment Non-Discrimination Act” and all of that—but we have an opportunity to create the world of our dreams.

That's why I was upset about the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, and I'm mad that we're not paying our U.N. dues, and why I think we ought to pay off the debt of the world's poorest countries—because we can create the world of our dreams, at home and beyond our borders. And there is nobody better qualified to be the conscience and the heart and the tactical leader of that struggle than Senator Kennedy. Nobody. This is a big deal.

So I'm telling you, I want you to feel this. I am grateful for having had the chance to serve. I am grateful that all these numbers I can reel off, and they sound so good. But the truth is, nobody thinks we have given everyone opportunity. No one thinks we have really built one America. No one believes this country is as safe as it can be. No one believes we've met all our obligations to the environment. No one believes that we have met our obligations or seized our opportunities in the world toward which we're moving.

So beyond all the issue, you just have to keep this simple idea in mind: This country is in good shape, and it is moving in the right direction. And for the only time in my lifetime, as a people, we have a chance to shape

the future of our dreams. It will only happen if we elect the right dreamers.

Thank you for being here.

NOTE: The President spoke at 7:52 p.m. in the a private residence. In his remarks, he referred to Lt. Gov. Kathleen Kennedy Townsend of Maryland; Vicki Kennedy, wife of Senator Edward M. Kennedy; Sargent Shriver, first Director of the Peace Corps; and former Representative Joseph P. Kennedy II.

### **Remarks at a Democratic National Committee Dinner**

*October 21, 1999*

Thank you. I will be brief, because I want to spend most of our time in a conversation. But I would like to say a few things.

First, I want to thank Senator Kerry for once again opening his home. I was here not very long ago with at least some of you who are here. I want to thank him for his genuine commitment to modernizing our party and to making it an instrument of progress and an instrument for bringing our country together. And I'm very grateful for the truly exceptional effort he's made.

On the way in, Joe Andrew, our DNC chair, said that John Kerry had done more personally than any other Member of the Congress to try to help modernize and strengthen our party, in the last few months, particularly. So I thank you for that. And I thank Teresa in her absence, and I think she did the right thing to fulfill her responsibility. [*Laughter*] We always say we're for opportunity and responsibility, and—[*laughter*]—she's had a fair share of one and discharged the lion's share of another. And we appreciate that.

I want to thank Governor Romer and Beth Dozoretz and all of the other people who are here from the Democratic Party and all of you.

Let me just say—I want to tell you a story. A lot of you know that Hillary and I—because of her, not me; it was her idea—have had a series of evenings at the White House called Millennium Evenings, this year, which we have primarily disseminated to the public at large through the Internet. It's been covered by C-SPAN and occasionally by CNN

and obviously by print reporters who come in. But the primary means of connecting to these Millennium Evenings has been through the Internet. And at the end of whatever we do, we allow people to—not only in the audience; there are always 200, 300 people in the audience—we allow people to send us questions from all over the world.

And it's been a fascinating thing. We started off with a history of the United States and where we are now compared to the roots of our Founders, in a lecture by Bernard Bailyn, the distinguished professor at Harvard. We've had a poetry night with the last three poet laureates of our country and a lot of inner-city kids in Washington and all kinds of people in-between, reading their poems and talking about poetry.

The great Wynton Marsalis came and played and lectured on the history of jazz as a unique American art form in the 20th century. Steven Hawking came all the way from Cambridge and talked about black holes and undiscovered galaxies of the 21st century and what it will mean for the nature and our understanding of time. And we've had eight of these evenings. It's been amazing. Elie Wiesel talked about the price of indifference in the 20th century and how we couldn't have it in the 21st.

Last week we had a man named Lander from Harvard who's an expert in genomics, and a man named Cerf from MCI that had something to do with the establishment of the Internet, the architect, that all of you know. And what they were talking about was the intersection of genomics and the revolution in computer technology.

And the scientist, the genomics guy, said that it would really not have been possible, first to decode the human gene and then to figure out anything useful to do with the decoding, were it not for the computer and for digital technology, generally. And he said—he was talking about how one of the things we've been trying to do in medical research, for example, is to deal with spinal cord injuries. And last year, for the very first time, we spent a lot of money, and Christopher Reeve, since he was injured, has been very instrumental in getting higher levels of research put into this issue. And last year, for the first time, we succeeded in getting nerves

transferred from the body of a laboratory animal, a rat, to the animal's spine which had been severed, and the animal actually took the transplant and had movement in its lower limbs—the first time it had ever been done in any living organism that we know of with a spinal cord that had been severed.

So what this guy said, he said he believes that this whole effort will be overtaken by the capacity of us to use a digital device that can be inserted into spines, that will replicate all nerve movements, and take the right signals and give them. And he said—he offered as exhibit A, as sort of prelude to that, his wife, Mr. Cerf's wife, who had been profoundly deaf for 50 years, totally beyond the reach of hearing aids, and a small digital device was inserted deep in her ears, and she heard for the first time in 50 years. And she got up and talked about that.

Then the genomics guy—we started talking about what all this meant for the breakdown of the gene. Then we got into, what does genetics tell us about society? And he made the following point: that in spite of the fact that you're talking about 100,000 genes and, ultimately, billions of permutations, that all human beings are 99.9 percent the same genetically.

And then, against the background of all the racial and ethnic conflicts in the world today, he made what I thought was a rather stunning statement—that I didn't know, at least; maybe a lot of you do know this. He said, if you take any substantial group of people—like if you take, say we had a group of people from India, 100 Indians and then let's say we had 100 Chinese and let's say we had 100 people from Nigeria and let's say we had 100 people from France—he said that the genetic differences of individuals within the group would be greater than the genetic differences as a whole of the French and the Indians and the Chinese and the Nigerians. And therefore, there was no rational basis, which we all knew anyway, but it was nice to have it confirmed scientifically, that there was no rational basis for this human emotion of fear of the other.

Well, what's all this got to do with technology? What I'm interested in—everything I can do while my time of service is here, before it's over, in maximizing the ability of

our country to use technology for economic empowerment, for educational empowerment, for political empowerment, and to do it in a way that promotes unity, not division. And that's what I would like to talk about.

And I think the Democratic Party is the principal engine in our time of economic empowerment, political empowerment, educational empowerment and certainly, compared with all the alternatives, the major force for the cohesion and unity of our society as we move forward. So that's why I'm glad all of you are here. I think this is a huge issue.

Eric and I had some talks about how we could close the digital divide, and of course, we've worked very hard on it, with the Vice President's leadership, to make sure by the time we get through with our millennium celebration, we'll have all of our classrooms hooked up to the Internet.

But if you think about what it might mean economically for poor people in America, if Internet access were as dense as telephone access in America, I think it would have a very positive economic impact. I believe cell phones and computers, if properly distributed, can save 30 years of educational and economic development in a lot of the poorest countries in this world and can permit an economic development that is far less damaging to the environment.

And I believe that technology, properly used, can not only give people a more interactive and personal engagement in the political process but can, in the process, dramatically reduce the sense of cynicism and alienation, a sense that one person doesn't matter and that none of this really amounts to much.

So my mind is always thinking about this, but everyone knows that I'm quite technologically challenged. So I need people like you to help me and tell me what to do and how to do it. So that's why I'm here; that's why I'm glad you're here; and I'm very grateful for your presence and your commitment.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:03 p.m. at a private residence. In his remarks, he referred to Senator John Kerry, dinner host, and his wife, Teresa; former Gov. Roy Romer of Colorado, former general chair, and Beth Dozoretz, national finance chair; Democratic National Committee; Eric

Lander, director, Whitehead Institute/MIT Center for Genome Research; and Vinton G. Cerf, senior vice president for Internet architecture and technology, MCI WorldCom, and his wife, Sigrid.

### **Memorandum on Waiver and Certification of Statutory Provisions Regarding the Palestine Liberation Organization**

*October 21, 1999*

Presidential Determination No. 00-2

*Memorandum for the Secretary of State*

*Subject:* Waiver and Certification of Statutory Provisions Regarding the Palestine Liberation Organization

Pursuant to the authority and conditions contained in section 540(d) of the Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 1999 (Public Law 105-277), as provided for in the Joint Resolution Making Continuing Appropriations for the Fiscal Year 2000, and for Other Purposes, I hereby determine and certify that it is important to the national security interests of the United States to waive the provisions of section 1003 of the Anti-Terrorism Act of 1987, Public Law 100-204.

This waiver shall be effective for a period of 6 months from the date hereof.

You are authorized and directed to transmit this determination to the Congress and to publish it in the *Federal Register*.

**William J. Clinton**

NOTE: This message was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on October 22. An original was not available for verification of the content of this memorandum.

### **Remarks to the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards**

*October 22, 1999*

Thank you. Thank you so much.

I was thinking how much help I need in trying to get what I say to certain people in the Congress not to go in one ear and out the other. [Laughter] And that maybe I