get behind closed doors and walk out with Trent Lott and Hastert to announce it?

The President. Well, first of all, I think there is a process that has been established that will start in the Senate for dealing with Medicare next year. And I am very hopeful that it will produce an agreement there.

On Social Security, as I have repeatedly pointed out, there is one thing we could do that would take Social Security beyond the life of the baby boom generation, which is simply to dedicate the interest savings in the national debt from the Social Security surplus to the Social Security Trust Fund. If we just did that, a simple bill, we could take Social Security out beyond the life of the baby boom generation.

If we want to go to 75 years instead of 50, then the best way to do that is to continue the work I've tried to do last year. You know, we had a big Social Security meeting. We had over 40 Members of Congress, Democrats and Republicans, over here at Blair House to talk about this, and I am prepared to meet with them and to work with them to try to work through this. And if there is a willingness to do it, I am certainly more than willing to do my part and to meet them halfway on it.

Move to Chappaqua

Q. How often are you going to visit your new house?

Q. Any advice for commuter couples? You are the most famous commuter couple now. [Laughter] It's a fair question.

The President. I don't think we've had enough experience to offer advice. But we're about to go up there and start moving stuff into our house. That's what we're going to do when we leave here.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:40 p.m. on the South Grounds at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Cuban youth Elian Gonzalez, rescued off the coast of Florida on November 25, 1999, whose custody case was pending before the Immigration and Naturalization Service. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of Senator Daschle and Representative Gephardt.

Videotape Remarks for Dr. George Washington Carver National Recognition Day

January 5, 2000

It's an honor for me to send my greetings to all of you in Santa Clara. I thank you for what you're doing to help instill the joy of science in our children, to help close the digital divide, and to honor the legacy of George Washington Carver.

Dr. Carver overcame enormous obstacles to become one of our greatest scientists and teachers. He was born to a slave mother on a Missouri farm, orphaned from an early age, survived great illness, and often was the victim of bigotry and hate. It wasn't until his late twenties that he was able to obtain a high school education.

And even as a child, Dr. Carver was known for talking to God through flowers and other plants. It's no wonder that agriculture became his ministry to mankind. At Booker T. Washington's Tuskegee Institute, Carver applied the almost magical possibilities of chemistry to the fields and farms of the South. He created 300 useful products from peanuts and more than 100 from sweet potatoes, spawning numerous industries. He helped save the South's depleted soils. And no person deserves more credit for liberating the South from its reliance on cotton.

Dr. Carver was also a great humanitarian. In everything he did, he was motivated by a deep desire to help poor, struggling farmers lead healthier, happier, more prosperous lives. And as if his scientific contributions were not great enough, he donated his entire life savings to help establish the Carver Research Foundation at Tuskegee.

Dr. Carver once said that he tried to lead his life “in the spirit of a little child seeking only to know the truth and follow it.” That is the spirit of discovery that the Healing Institute and the Santa Clara Alliance of Black Educators are helping to nurture in our children today. I am deeply grateful for that.

Congratulations to all the Carver Scholars, and to all of you who are helping our children soar beyond limitations. God bless you all.

NOTE: The President's remarks were videotaped at approximately 12:30 p.m. in the Roosevelt
Memorandum on Delegation of Authority for Reporting Functions on Technology Transfer
January 5, 2000

Memorandum for the Secretary of Defense

Subject: Delegation of Authority Under Sections 1402 and 1406 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2000 (Public Law 106–65)

By the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, including section 301 of title 3, United States Code, I hereby delegate to the Secretary of Defense the duties and responsibilities vested in the President by sections 1402 and 1406 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2000 ("the Act") (Public Law 106–65).

The Department of Defense shall prepare the report required by section 1402 of the Act with the assistance of the Department of State, the Department of Commerce, the Department of Energy, the Department of the Treasury, the Director of Central Intelligence, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The Department of Defense shall obtain concurrence on the report from the following agencies: the Department of State, the Department of Commerce, the Director of Central Intelligence on behalf of the Intelligence Community, the Department of the Treasury, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation prior to submission to the Congress.

The Departments of Defense and Energy shall jointly prepare the report required by section 1406 of the Act with the assistance of the Department of State, the Department of Commerce, and the Director of Central Intelligence on behalf of the Intelligence Community prior to submission to the Congress.

Any reference in this memorandum to the provisions of any Act shall be deemed to be a reference to such Act or its provisions as may be amended from time to time.

You are authorized and directed to publish this memorandum in the Federal Register.

William J. Clinton

Memorandum on Delegation of Authority for Reporting Functions on Technology Transfer
January 5, 2000

Memorandum for the Secretary of Energy


By the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, including section 301 of title 3, United States Code, I hereby delegate to the Secretary of Energy and the Secretary of Defense the duties and responsibilities vested in the President by section 1406 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2000 ("the Act") (Public Law 106–65).

The Departments of Energy and Defense shall jointly prepare a report with the assistance of the Department of State, the Department of Commerce, and the Director of Central Intelligence. The Departments of Defense and Energy shall obtain concurrence on the report from the following agencies: the Department of State, the Department of Commerce, and the Director of Central Intelligence on behalf of the Intelligence Community prior to submission to the Congress.

Any reference in this memorandum to the provisions of any Act shall be deemed to be a reference to such Act or its provisions as may be amended from time to time.

You are authorized and directed to publish this memorandum in the Federal Register.

William J. Clinton