

## Presidential accomplishments

My Fellow Americans:

This is the season of America's renewal.

Already, in the first few months of this new Administration, we have restored an active purpose to the presidency and renewed America's commitment to change and progress.

After twelve years of national drift and economic decline, we have begun to chart a clear path to growth with my New Directions economic plan designed to create jobs, boost incomes, move our economy from consumption to investment and reduce our deficit dramatically.

The investments in my economic plan embrace priorities that will raise the living standards and profits of workers and businesses for the long-term: rebuild America's infrastructure; commit resources and attention to the education and training needs of our students and workers; and restore vital incentives that reward productivity, profits, innovation and investment.

The Clinton budget — the outline of my economic plan for New Directions — passed the Congress in record setting time. It reduced deficit spending by over \$500 billion; a plan so credible that the markets continue to reduce interest rates on the American people. These interest rate reductions, coupled with steps taken by my Administration to deal with the credit crunch, mean American businesses, farms and consumers have money to save, spend, invest and grow.

I want to be the President who helps American people realize their call for change.

Enormous changes are sweeping our economy. Inevitable defense cutbacks are forcing military bases to close, causing defense manufacturers to lose markets and cut jobs. Problems in the airline industry have caused massive lay-offs in aerospace firms

and among the domestic carriers. America's economic partners abroad are beating American companies in the race for markets in the former Soviet Union.

That's why my economic program will help the American people turn these changes into real economic progress. I have offered a \$20 billion, five-year initiative to reinvest in workers, communities and companies affected by cuts in military spending. I have formed a commission to recommend real changes in federal policy to help restart our aviation and aerospace industry. And I have provided an enterprise-oriented aid initiative to save the Russian Democracy and spur American economic growth.

Beyond growth, Americans want to return to responsibility in our schools, our communities and our economy. And in that spirit, this Administration is leading the way: by reforming welfare to make it a second chance, not a way of life; by reforming the health care system to provide health security to every American and bring rising costs under control; by making national service opportunities available to students so that they can exchange opportunities for education with community service.

Finally, I am working to give the government back to the American people. At the beginning of my Administration, I announced my decision to cut the White House staff by 25% and eliminate the kinds of perks and privileges which isolate Federal workers from the people they are supposed to serve.

I have cut billions from the budgets of federal agencies and departments, telling them they must do more with less. I have appointed Vice President Gore to head the National Performance Review, which will oversee our efforts to streamline government, eliminate waste and make our gov-

ernment more accountable to the American people.

I am committed to bringing this Presidency directly to the people through such things as town meetings and electronic mail with the White House. And the Vice President and I will continue to participate in regional events like the Forest Conference, an meeting which sought solutions for the environmental and economic problems of the Pacific Northwest.

Most importantly, I am committed to enacting tough campaign finance and lobbying reform legislation to drive special interest dealing out of politics.

What will come from what we accomplish here — more economic growth, comprehensive health and welfare reform, a new system of national service, a government that once again belongs to the people — are new opportunities for achievement, empowerment and progress for Americans who work hard and play by the rules. It means a new direction for us all. It is indeed America's season of renewal.

Bill Clinton  
President

United States of America