

lot of these small towns and rural areas, just like there has been in all the communities that lost their military bases when we downsized after the cold war.

So, the Congress, with the leadership of the people in your delegation whom I just mentioned, appropriated over \$1 billion for communities in the Pacific Northwest for the kind of economic transition that Monica is going through. That is what we have to do more of. But we have to do it in a way that makes technology our friend, not our enemy. At least two of the students that I met with here were downsized purely because you can do more work with fewer people because of computers.

The same thing is going on in the Federal Government. The Federal Government is 205,000 people smaller today than it was the day I took office. And I might add, I'm proud of the fact that we've worked very hard to help all these people not feel like they were downsized but feel like they were given an opportunity to go on to a better and more productive life. But we can do more work than we used to be able to do with fewer people, with less regulatory hassle, less bureaucratic hassle. The Federal Government is today as small as it was in 1965. And that's a good thing. But it's also a good thing that these people are going to have a chance to do something else that's more exciting, that's more fulfilling, that society needs done, that the marketplace says, hey, we need, and that they can get a good wage doing.

So I will say to you again: Our great challenge is to take what we know is true in the school room, that technology is the great equalizer, and take it into the workplace. And that will happen through the community college. That will happen through partnerships. That will happen if we continue to invest in student assistance programs, to invest in technology partnerships, to invest in economic transitions, to invest in the people. And it will happen if we continue to work together.

One of the worst things about contemporary political life is that the further you get away from a grassroots political office where everyone knows all the candidates running, the more likely politics and campaigns are to be used to divide people instead

of to unite them. When we are together, America never loses, and we will not lose this.

So I ask you to continue to support Shoreline Community College, to continue to support investments in education, to continue to insist that we move forward into the future and that we not stop until the benefits of technology are available to everyone. We cannot go forward as a country where half of us are growing and half of us are stuck. But we cannot pretend that we can return to a time that does not exist anymore.

We have no choice but to do what Americans have always done: to take on the challenges of the present and to march right through them. We can create more high-wage jobs. The Telecommunications Act will create tens of thousands of high-wage jobs. I want you to be trained to hold them. We can win in global competition if we insist on having an open but fair trading system. We can move into the future. And we have to do it by working together.

More than any other institution in the United States of America today, the promise of technology with a bright future for all Americans is embodied by the way the community colleges work. I want America to work that way and I want every one of you to remember what that 70-year-old man in Woodland, Washington, said to me: "That's the way we ought to behave all the time." And if we do, there is no limit to America's future.

Thank you, and God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 6:13 p.m. in the gymnasium at Shoreline Community College. In his remarks, he referred to Monica Walker, student, and Gary Oertli, president, Shoreline Community College; Mayor Norman Rice of Seattle; and Gov. Mike Lowry of Washington.

Statement on the Terrorist Attacks in Israel

February 25, 1996

On behalf of all Americans, I want to extend my deepest sympathy and condolences to Prime Minister Peres and the people of Israel. Our prayers are with them at this terrible moment, especially the families and

friends of those killed and wounded in Jerusalem and Ashkelon.

These brutal acts of terror, which once again have taken the lives of innocent Israelis and at least one American citizen, offend the conscience of the world. They must not only be condemned; they must be brought to an end. The enemies of peace have once more attempted to turn back progress toward a new Middle East in which Arabs and Israelis may live in peace. But they have not and will not succeed. Their dark vision is of the past, not the present; of violence, not hope for a better future.

At this tragic moment, the U.S. stands alongside Israel and with all the peacemakers, as together we continue our work for a comprehensive and lasting settlement for all the peoples of the Middle East.

Statement on the Peace Vigil in Northern Ireland

February 25, 1996

Today, I join the people of Northern Ireland as you gather together in a mass vigil for peace. From where I stood last November in Belfast, to cities on both sides of the Atlantic, citizens are standing up for an end to violence and for the right of the people of Northern Ireland to a normal life.

The bombs that shattered the cease-fire and murdered and maimed innocent people in London must not be the path of the future. As today's outpouring of support underscores, the people want peace. They deserve peace, and we must all work to help them achieve this goal. Those who seek to use violence and terror should hear the voices of today's vigil being conducted across our lands: no to violence, yes to peace.

The United States continues to work with the Irish and British Governments and the parties to help the people of Northern Ireland achieve that goal. I commend all those who are standing today for peace. My hopes and prayers are with you in that effort.

Remarks on Presenting the Presidential Citizens Medal to Bernice Young Jones

February 26, 1996

The President. I want to begin, Bernice, by welcoming members of your family and your friends here, and we're especially glad to have Senator Bumpers and Congressman Hutchinson come.

I learned this morning something I did not know, that this is your first trip to Washington. Well, to have managed to live as many years as you have—

Ms. Jones. Ninety. [*Laughter*]

The President. —without ever coming to Washington, that alone is justification for this award. [*Laughter*]

Ms. Jones. And that's my sister and it's her first trip, and she's 92.

Hillary Clinton. Is that right?

The President. Well, neither one of you look it, and we're glad to have you.

Hillary Clinton. That's probably why they look so good. [*Laughter*]

The President. Let me say that, for me, personally, this is a great pleasure because I know very well of the extraordinary work you have done for health care in Arkansas, for education, and of course, the center you established in your name and your late husband's name for families in Springdale. The things that you have done and stood for and tried to help are the things that all of us in America should be trying to advance. And you are a shining example for philanthropy in our country.

I can only hope that every State will find someone like you to help do what needs to be done. And it is for that reason that I wanted to give you this President's Citizens Medal. And I'm very glad you decided to take leave of your very good policy and at least one time come to Washington, DC. [*Laughter*]

Ms. Jones. Thank you so much. I appreciate it for myself, my family, my friends, my wonderful Springdale, and Arkansas.

The President. I'd like to ask my military aide now to read the citation.