

that the future is brighter than any of our glorious past.

And we can do it. We have it within our means if we have the vision and the will and if we make up our mind, each and every one of us, to be good citizens.

Yes, we have done a lot in the last 4 years, but the last 4 years is just an indication of what we can do in the next 4 and the years beyond if we will build that bridge together. Would you help me do that? *[Applause]*

Thank you. God bless you. Let's go get it.

NOTE: The President spoke at 6:25 p.m. at Samuel Shephard Gateway Educational Park. In his remarks, he referred to entertainer Al Green; Darlene Green, St. Louis city comptroller; Francis G. Slay, president, St. Louis board of aldermen; Robert P. McCulloch, St. Louis County prosecutor; Cleveland Hammonds, superintendent, St. Louis Public Schools; Joseph Carmichael, State Democratic chair; State Senator B.J. (Jet) Banks; and Mayor Freeman R. Bosley, Jr., of St. Louis.

Statement on the Medicare Demonstration of Military Managed Care

September 10, 1996

Today I am pleased to announce, on behalf of more than one million Medicare-eligible military retirees, a new demonstration that will expand health care options for our Nation's military retirees.

This initiative moves forward an idea—Medicare subvention, or Medicare reimbursement of Department of Defense health facilities—that the military retiree community has sought for many years. This administration first embraced the concept of Medicare subvention 3 years ago under health reform. More recently, the administration moved the concept forward in a legislative proposal for the Department of Veterans Affairs.

The demonstration I am announcing today, the "Medicare Demonstration of Military Managed Care," is a partnership between the Departments of Health and Human Services and Defense that can generate multiple benefits: expanded health care options and improved access to military treat-

ment facilities for Medicare-eligible military retirees; a better way for the Department of Defense to care for retired beneficiaries and support medical readiness; and savings for the Medicare Trust Fund by providing health care to Medicare-eligible military retirees at a lower cost in the DoD health care system.

Under this demonstration project, Medicare-eligible military retirees in five communities could enroll in Defense's new TRICARE Prime managed care system, and Medicare would reimburse DoD for these enrollees at a rate below what is traditionally paid to Medicare managed care plans. To protect the Medicare Trust Funds, Defense would receive Medicare payments only after meeting its current level of funding effort. The demonstration will test whether Medicare subvention is a cost-effective alternative for delivering accessible and quality care to dual-eligible beneficiaries.

We will submit legislation reflecting this agreement shortly. I am pleased that there is strong bipartisan support for this demonstration, and I look forward to working with Congress in quickly enacting enabling legislation this year.

We owe a great debt to those who have risked their lives defending our Nation. This agreement is an important step toward repaying that debt.

Statement on Signing the District of Columbia Appropriations Act, 1997

September 10, 1996

I have signed into law, H.R. 3845, the "District of Columbia Appropriations Act, 1997." This Act provides \$719 million in Federal appropriations for the District of Columbia.

The total amount of Federal funds appropriated to the District for FY 1997 includes \$660 million for the Federal payment to the District of Columbia, \$52 million for the Federal contribution to retirement funds, \$5.7 million for Presidential Inaugural expenses, and \$1 million to help address the District's drinking water problem.

I am disappointed that the Congress has excluded the \$52 million increase in the Federal contribution to the pension payment

proposed in my FY 1997 Budget. The \$52 million requested increase was intended to begin to address the District's \$5 billion unfunded pension liability. I am committed to working with the Congress to develop a solution to address the District's single largest financial obligation.

The Act sets the total operating expense spending level for the District of Columbia at the requested level of \$5.1 billion, \$119 million above FY 1996.

The abortion language in the Act is the same as current law, which prohibits the use of both Federal and District funds to pay for abortions except in those cases where the life of the mother is in danger or in cases of rape or incest. I continue to view this prohibition as an unwarranted intrusion into the affairs of the District.

The Act includes a provision that applies civil rights standards provided for in Executive Order 11246 to Federal construction contracts funded under the District of Columbia School Reform Act of 1995.

William J. Clinton

The White House,
September 10, 1996.

NOTE: H.R. 3845, approved September 9, was assigned Public Law No. 104-194.

**Remarks at a Democratic National
Committee Dinner in St. Louis**
September 10, 1996

Thank you so very much. Thank you, Jeff, for that wonderful statement and for the way that you have handled this terribly difficult and painful situation and for the way that you have led your very great company.

Thank you, Mr. Mayor, for giving me a great time in St. Louis, for getting those 18,000 people there today at that absolutely wonderful educational complex that I think would be the envy of any community in the entire Nation. St. Louis can be very, very proud of that. It was extremely beautiful and, obviously, extremely effective. *[Applause]* Thank you.

Thank you, Mr. Gephardt. I want to say a little more about him later. Thank you, Governor, for your friendship. We were sit-

ting at the table tonight reminiscing about how Mel Carnahan, when he was trying to become Governor of Missouri in 1992, and should have been paying attention to his own business and the primary, endorsed me for President at a time when only my mother thought I could win. *[Laughter]* I was worried about his political health. But he seems to have weathered that burden quite nicely, and I thank him for it.

Mel and Jean and their children have been a real credit to the people of Missouri. And we were over in Kansas City earlier today with Mayor Cleaver and with Alan Wheat, who used to represent them in Congress but is now my deputy campaign manager, and Congresswoman McCarthy, and we had a wonderful meeting there at a welfare reform center which I think will prove to be the model for the entire country as we come to grips with our new responsibilities to move people from welfare to work and not leave people behind. And on that account alone, I think he has earned the confidence and the support of the people of Missouri for a second term. And I thank you for everything you've done.

I'd like to thank Joan Kelly Horn for being here and for presenting herself as a candidate for Congress again. And I hope she's successful. Thank you, Joan. I thank Becky Cook and Bob Holden for being here and for being with me all day today. And I'd like to thank a man who's here who I believe is responsible for the first speech I ever gave in the State of Missouri as a public official about 10 years ago, Senator Tom Eagleton, who's here. Thank you, Tom, for being here. Thank you very much.

Ladies and gentlemen, I appreciate what all the previous speakers have said, and I very much appreciate your support here at this fundraiser for the Democratic Party and for what we are trying to do in the next 8 weeks.

I'd like to go back to something that Mr. Gephardt said. It is true that, I think probably more than any other single action, his courageous leadership as the majority leader for the economic program that we put through the House and the Senate in 1993 by only one vote in each House made him the minority leader of the House.