

lege. So it's not just lower income workers, it's also white-collar workers that are afflicted by this insecurity.

Now, we can't stop these changes that technology and global competition are driving, but we can ask ourselves, what are those challenges? I think the great challenge that we face is how to define a new security for families in the 21st century. If you don't have a guaranteed job, you ought to have access to education, access to health care, and a pension you can tote around with you that nobody can take away from you—at least that.

So in the debate over this—over which way to balance the budget is better, you should ask yourself, what is the evidence we have about which path works? And what are the problems that the Clinton administration still has not been able to solve? And which policy will make it better or worse, more or less likely we can solve them? If you look at the record, you can be proud of that. If you look at the challenges, you know we need to do more of what we've been doing, not less.

If you look at the reaffirmation of our basic values of respect for one another and for our diversity and for the integrity of people and their safety, in the last 3 years we have some pretty good evidence of that. We passed a crime bill that's helping to put 100,000 more police officers on the street. New York City just reported the biggest drop in crime since 1972; my hometown, Little Rock, Arkansas, a 7-year low in crime. All over America, the crime rate is down.

We've given 35 States pretty much the freedom to do whatever they wanted to change their welfare programs to move people from welfare to work as long as they took care of the little children and didn't hurt children but strengthened families while they were promoting work. And we passed the family and medical leave law and the national service law. And these things were consistent with our national values.

Well, what's happened in the last 3 years? The crime rate's down. The welfare rolls are down. The food stamp rolls are down. The poverty rate is down. For 2 years, the teen pregnancy rate has dropped.

Did we cause all that? No. The American people caused it, but our policies supported it. They helped it. Why would you, then, change? Why would you scrap the police program and just send a check to cities and say, spend the

money however you want? Is the crime rate low enough? No. So what we should do is to keep on doing what we're doing; it's working.

Same thing is true in welfare reform. I worked on that before the Republican contract was a gleam in anybody's eye. I'm all for that. But welfare reform should be that, should be welfare reform. It should liberate people and hold them to high standards and have high expectations. And it should make it possible for people to succeed as parents and as workers. The same problem we've got with blue-collar people around this country and white-collar people around this country.

Most people who have children work. Most people who have children have to work. Since we want people to have children—most workers, we should want to have children. Therefore, it follows, one of our great national goals should be to help people succeed as parents and in the workplace. That ought to be welfare reform's goal; that ought to be our work program today.

So I say to you: Should we reform the welfare system? Should we find ways to be more effective in lowering the crime rate? Absolutely. But we shouldn't reverse policies that work. We should build on them and go in the same direction.

If you look at the whole area of Government—the Republican majority in Congress, they rail about big Government all the time. You know how big your Government is? There are 200,000 fewer people working for the Government today than there were the day I became President—actually, now, about 205,000 fewer. The last time the Government was this size was when Lyndon Johnson was President of the United States in 1965. As a percentage of the civilian work force, your Federal Government is now the smallest it has been since 1933 before the New Deal.

Don't let the Republicans say they're ending big Government. That is done, and the Democrats did that for you. And nobody even noticed because we did it in the right way, with no suffering of Government services and without putting good public employees out on the street and treating them like they were disposable products.

So there is a right way and a wrong way to do that. When we downsized the Federal Government, we had generous early retirement system. We had generous severance pay. We