

gave people time to find other jobs. We made sure when they left they had enough money to build another life. And we've had very few complaints. And we also did it in a planned and disciplined way so that all the work that the public needed done could be done.

So no one in America knows that there are 200,000 fewer people working for the Federal Government today than there were before I took office, and that is a good thing. That means we did our job. And that means the Federal employees did their job.

One of the reasons that I was so angry in the last Government shutdown was that here these people are working with 200,000 fewer people putting out more work than they were 3 years ago, never even getting so much as a thank-you, and now they're being thrown out of work against their will. So we can't let that happen again. But we ought to recognize that a remarkable transformation has happened in the Federal Government.

We're working on getting rid of 16,000 of the 86,000 pages of Federal regulation and improving the quality of environmental protection and public health, not weakening it. Now, that is the right way to do that, not with some uncritical condemnation of the Government but by defining in modern terms what it is we need our Government to do.

And finally, let me say that—and I owe a special word of thanks to Mr. Bonior for the last item on this list—I am profoundly proud that our country has been a great source of peace and freedom, from Haiti to Northern Ireland, to the Middle East, and to Bosnia, in the last 3 years. And I want to thank those in Congress who have stood by me in this.

The truth is that at the end of the cold war, the world is still a little unsettled and the new security patterns are not there, and the United States has to lead. I am proud of the fact there are no Russian missiles pointed at any Americans during this administration for the first time since the end of the cold war.

And I'm proud of the fact that we've got nearly 180 countries to say that they wouldn't engage in nuclear proliferation. And I'm proud of the fact that our antinarcotics, anti-drug-ring strategy, using the military and our civilian law enforcement authorities, have helped to result in the arrest of most of the leaders of the notorious Cali drug cartel in Colombia. I am proud

of the fact that we are making progress on these things.

Now, do we have problems at home and abroad? You bet we do. What's the biggest violation of our values? We already talked about our biggest economic problem. Our biggest social problem is that the crime rate's going down, but crime among young juveniles, people under 18, is going up. Drug use among young adults 18 to 34 is going down; drug use among young people 12 to 17 is going up. Why? There are too many of those kids out there raising themselves. There are too many kids who have been abandoned in inner cities and isolated rural areas that think they have no future.

Is the answer to do less for them? Or is the answer to try to build on the progress of the last 3 years and be honest and say, you know, if you want people to choose a good future, you have to tell them what they should say no to, but you've got to make sure there's something for them to say yes to as well. There has to be a future out there for all of our children.

And one other thing I want to say about that. The other big issue that I think we as Democrats ought to be proud to embrace is the idea that we will draw strength from our diversity. We have always drawn strength from our diversity. Every time we have broadened opportunity in this country, we've been stronger for it.

We're a better country than we would have been if we'd tried to hold on to slavery longer. We're a better country than we would have been if we'd never had the civil rights revolution. We're a better country than we would have been if we'd never given women the opportunity to do the things that they can do and that they want to do and that their imagination would lead them to do. We are a better country when we open opportunities to people.

There will always be great difficulty in a country full of great conviction when a lot of those convictions collide. I gave a speech about affirmative action at the National Archives not very long ago, saying that I thought it should be ended someday, but not until we knew there was no longer any institutional and pattern of racism in the country; it was time to change it, but not to end it.

I was able to go out to James Madison High School in Virginia a few months ago to talk about prayer in the schools and religious observance in the schools, no matter what religion