

people have, and to explain to the American people it is not true that there can be no expression of religious conviction in the schools. It is simply true that the State may not sanction one particular form or another.

So our Secretary of Education, who's doing a magnificent job, by the way, sent out a list of guidelines to schools all over America. And we have been deluged with gratitude from fundamentalist ministers, from rabbis, from ordinary citizens, from confused teachers, from people all over the country who simply did not know what the rules were, because now they do.

I spent a lot of time trying to figure out how we can make this diversity work for us. But I'll tell you something, wedge politics is not one way to do it. Pitting one group of Americans against another is not a way to do it. You may win a lot of elections getting one group of Americans to be frightened of another, but you won't win many hearts and minds and futures, and you won't win many battles for America doing it that way. I don't believe it works.

And if you look at where we have to go in the world, I am telling you—I don't know how many of you saw the—I guess a lot of you did—the coverage of the trip I took to Ireland and to England and then later to Germany to see our troops and to Madrid to meet with the leaders of Europe, but on the street everywhere it was amazing the response that people gave, not to me, to the United States of America because they thought America was still there trying to lead, trying to fulfill a role that only we can fulfill now.

Maybe 10, 20 years from now, all the security problems in the world will be handled by groups of democracies dealing with the problems in their own backyard, and that all we'll have to do is to cooperate through the United Nations to help solve problems in distant lands where there is no structure to deal with them, at a time or place in the future. But today, whether we like it or not, America is still needed. America still matters in the Middle East. America still matters in Northern Ireland. America still matters in Bosnia. America still matters. I do not believe the answer is to walk away from those responsibilities.

So that's the context in which I think you should see this debate over the budget. If you are a young person and most of your life is still ahead of you, you've got a lot more at

stake in this debate than the people who right now are drawing Medicare. But you should care about those people, because if you're 20 years old and you have a grandparent who is 75 years old and you have parents in the middle, I can tell you that if it weren't for the Medicare program, a lot of middle class parents wouldn't be able to send their children to college because they'd have to spend every last dime they have taking care of their parents.

You should care about the Medicaid program, even if you're an upper income person, because the Medicaid program gives health care to 4 million children who wouldn't get it otherwise, and they are a part of our future, too. And every day we neglect them is a day we will pay back for it, sure as the world, before it's over.

You may never draw a Pell grant because you may be so fortunate you don't need it, but you should care whether this budget eliminates 360,000 Pell grant scholarships. America will pay for that. We already have a problem getting poor kids to go on to college and to stay in college because the cost of a college education has gone up so much. And we should not cut back on those college scholarships.

You ought to care if we eliminate the direct student loan program, which gives people lower cost, more hassle-free loans with better terms of repayment, because we need more young people going on to college. If you look at the 1990 census, it is absolutely chilling to see what has happened to young people who don't have at least 2 years of education after high school, what happens to their job prospects, their earnings, their prospects for health care, for retirement, for continuing education, for stability in their lives. It is chilling.

So it matters. That's what this whole debate is about. Let me tell you again, we have already identified enough cuts in the budget that both the leaders of the Democratic Party, not just the President but the congressional leaders, and the Republican congressional leaders, that we all agreed have to be made that we could balance the budget like that. This is about how we will do it. And to me it is not about this dollar or that dollar, it's how I imagine your country will look 10, 20, 30 years from now. I'm asking myself, will this make America stronger in the future? Will we honor our responsibilities to our parents, as well as to our