

children? What kind of country will we be? What are our common responsibilities?

And there's a huge debate. Let me just give you two examples in closing. First major piece of legislation I signed in 1993 was the Family and Medical Leave Act. Basically, it said that if you worked for a company with 50 or more employees, you can have a little time off, unpaid, if you're having a baby born or you've got a sick child or a sick parent, and you can't be fired for it. A hundred and seventy countries had that law before we did because the business interests in our country said, "Oh, it will kill us. It will cost a lot of jobs. It will break businesses." I have no evidence that any business has closed because of the family leave law, not any.

But the people who now lead the Congress in both Houses opposed that 3 years ago because they said, "Oh, this is a terrible Government infringement on the private sector." Let me tell you, not very long ago I went out to the National Institute of Health, and I met with a lot of sick children—a lot of them probably won't live—and I met with their parents. And I met with couple after couple after couple who would have lost their health insurance had it not been for the family leave law, who would not have been able to be with their sick children had it not been for the family leave law, and who still have jobs because of the family leave law. And this is a better country and the people are better, stronger employees and their businesses are more successful because we passed that little law. But it was a big thing because of the differences in our philosophy.

I'll just close with this story. I got a call the other night in the middle of this debate from a man I went to college with, who is the model of what the Republican Party says we ought to have for citizens. He is a pro-life Irish Catholic who married an Irish Catholic girl and raised two beautiful Irish Catholic boys. And when we got out of college, he went into the Marine Corps and served with great distinction. And when he got out of the Marine Corps, he became a pilot. And he's worked hard all his life. And when a relative of his wife had a child with cerebral palsy and their family fell apart and they couldn't raise the child, this man and his wife adopted that child as their own, and they raised that child.

And while they were raising these three children, one of whom had cerebral palsy, they

spent all their free time with their church. And twice a year, because they lived in southern California, they went to Mexico to build houses for poor people. And they didn't ask anything from the Government. They paid their taxes; they did their work; they gave their lives to their family. When one member of their family needed a little help, they adopted a child with difficulties and raised her to be a wonderful young woman. They are a model of what the people who say the Government is not needed ought to be.

This man called me on the phone the other night. He said, "I've been following this budget debate, and I'm sitting here with a catalog buying my daughter another wheelchair. And I don't need any help from the Government. And I'm grateful that I've got a good job, and I can afford to do it." But he said, "You know, when we lived in California, one of my daughter's best friends was a child with spina bifida. And she lived with her mother, a single parent who worked for about \$6 an hour and rode a bus an hour a day each way to work." He said, "Now, the way I got it figured, this budget proposal, if you let it become law, would hit that woman in three ways." He said, "I'm going to get a tax cut, right?" I said, "That's right." I think so. I mean, I don't exactly know that his income is, but I think he will. And he said, "Now, she's going to get hit three ways: They're going to reduce her transportation subsidy, so the cost of her busfare is going to rise. They're going to cut back on the earned-income tax credit, so her tax bill is going to go up when mine goes down. And then they're going to cut back on aid to disabled children so she won't get the help that she now gets or won't get as much of it to help her buy a wheelchair or new shoes for her child who drags her shoes and ruins them every few weeks. Is that right?" I said, "That's about it." He said, "You've got to stop that. You've got to stop that." That's what we've been trying to stop.

Now, what I want you to understand is that—and let me say this, and with all respect to the people whom I've spent the last several weeks with, and don't laugh about this—a lot of these people are very well meaning, very sincere; they just look at the world different than we do. They really believe that nearly any Government spending is worse than nearly any kind of tax cut. They really believe that nearly every interruption of the market is a bad thing and