

Let's get after it and do it and get it behind us and then go on and do politics."

But again I will say, the reason we have to balance the budget is because we misplayed this for 12 years. This was misplayed by our country. And the politicians, to be fair to them, were more or less just doing what the people wanted. Nobody was ready to take any tough decisions. We have obligations to each other. We owe these kids a better future, just like we owe our parents a decent health care system.

Now, that's the difference. I do not want to see America become a country full of possibility, with record numbers of new successful people every year, but more and more people falling behind. I think we're better when we're a team. I'm going to go see those military folks. Why are you so proud of them? You may not know the name of a single person over there, but you know they're going to do a good job, don't you? Why? Because they're a team, because they work together. You know they're going to do a good job.

Let me tell you, the only thing that surprised me about the Vice President's speech? It took him about 7 minutes to get around to rubbing it in about Tennessee winning a bowl game. [Laughter] Now, Tennessee has a great quarterback. But they didn't beat Ohio State with their quarterback. They beat them with the quarterback, the other 10 people on offense, the other

11 people on the defense. Right? If Ohio State scores three touchdowns instead of two, your great quarterback loses a game. Right? Teamwork! Why do we forget it when it comes to our public decisions?

That's what this whole issue is about, folks. We can balance the budget; we can keep this economy going; we can keep the good trends in our life going, keep the crime rate and the welfare rolls and the food stamp rolls and the poverty rolls coming down, which is what is happening now and I'm proud of that. But we can only do it if we remember that this country got here because at our most important moment we came together. That's what we're fighting for.

God bless you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:25 p.m. at the Opryland Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to Ned Ray McWherter, chairman, Tennessee Clinton/Gore Reelection Committee; former Senator Albert Gore, Sr., and his wife, Pauline; U.S. Ambassador to China Jim Sasser and his wife, Mary; former Senator Harlan Mathews and his wife, Patsy; Wayne E. Glenn, international president, United Paperworkers International Union; and Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin of Russia. A portion of these remarks could not be verified because the tape was incomplete.

Remarks to American Troops at Aviano Air Base, Italy January 13, 1996

The President. Thank you very much. Good morning.

Audience members. Good morning.

The President. I know it's early, but we can do better than that. Good morning. [Laughter]

Minister Corcione, Ambassador Bartholomew, our distinguished Italian hosts and guests, General Joulwan, General Ryan, Colonel Wald, Chief Myers, Colonel Moody, Aviano families, and to the men and women of Operation Decisive Edge. Let me begin by thanking the colonel for that fine welcome and thanking all of you for making me feel so welcome. I am very pleased finally to have a chance to come here to Aviano and to see you. And since it's so

early, I may be more pleased to see you than you are to see me. But I'm glad you came out anyway.

I thank you for giving me the chance to meet you and to tell you how important and how appreciated your work is. What you and our allies are doing here and in Bosnia is the difference between a war that resumes and a peace that takes hold. You are giving people who have suffered so very much a chance to enjoy the blessings of a normal life. You are living up to the great traditions of the Armed Forces of the United States, protecting our Nation's interest by keeping a fire out that has threatened the heart of Europe's stability. On behalf of