

troops come from all parts of our country, from all racial and religious and ethnic groups. They comprise a diversity unmatched anywhere in the world and, unfortunately, unmatched in any other organization in this country. They are all committed to equal opportunity, equal responsibility, and excellence.

I wish all of you could have been with me walking down the lines reviewing the troops. First, there's a little unit with a big captain who is 6 foot 4, comes from an industrial city in the Middle West, from an Eastern European ethnic group. Next, there's a unit captained by a young slip of a woman barely 5 feet tall, an African-American woman bossing around all these big, hulking guys. Why? Because she was judged by her merits. Yes, they have an affirmative action program, but no one gets a job for which they are not competent. It was a beautiful thing to see.

But more important than the composition of the military is the mission on which they went, a mission we can all identify with. Bosnia is a land that in the past has found strength in its diversity: the Muslims, the Croats, who are Catholic, and the Serbs, who are Orthodox. They have flourished side by side in the past. Even though they prayed apart, they lived and worked together. They've been neighbors and friends and even family members.

In giving in to appeals to primitive and blind hatred, those who started that awful war there were stepping back into an imagined, unreal past in which they say life has greater integrity and meaning when we define ourselves in terms of who we are not, instead of who we are. Does that sound familiar to you? When we define ourselves by whom we can denigrate and debase, instead of those whom we can reach out to and embrace.

We Americans understand the challenges they're facing in Bosnia. We know it's hard to forge a community from many different groups. It's hard to lay down old hatreds and ancient biases. We also know, as that old Broadway song says, children have to be taught to hate.

I was thinking—you all were making all those jokes about the bus and the airplane—you know what I was thinking about? When I was a kid growing up in my hometown in Arkansas, I rode the city bus to school every day. It cost a nickel. I can still remember one day when I got on the bus I had 4 cents, and there was a bus stop in front of my house and one about a

block behind my house. And I asked the bus driver if he'd let me off behind with 4 cents, and let me run up and get another penny and run down the front and give it to him. And he did. That was the old days. But I was a kid. I didn't—I was so stupid, I thought the best place to sit was the back of the bus. They had to run me out of the back so other people could sit down who were supposed to be there. I thought I was supposed to be in the back of the bus. Children have to be taught to hate. We know about what they're going through in Bosnia.

Though our Founding Fathers celebrated in our documents the universal rights of man as being inherent in human nature, we actually started out with a Constitution that stated that slaves were not fully citizens and, by the language of the Constitution, therefore, not fully human.

We fought a Civil War over race and slavery. We lived through bitter days of lynchings and riots. Still today we struggle to overcome. But over time, Dr. King and Reverend Abernathy, others have helped us to see that history need not be our destiny. We can define ourselves by our hopes and not our fears. Most of all, we can understand that we are stronger when we live and work together as a community, not as a swarm of isolated individuals or antagonistic groups. That is still the decision for America today.

In the great budget debate, I believe—some disagree—I believe we ought to balance the budget. We never had a permanent deficit until the 12 years before I became President. Deficits were things that we ran when we had recessions or great wars that required us to mobilize the energies of the country.

So we have to do it. But we have to balance the budget in a balanced way that recognizes that we are all in this together. That is the struggle of America's whole history. That is the mission in Bosnia. We know that we have to be liberated, not bound by the lessons of the past.

Dr. King said that men hate each other because they fear each other. They fear each other because they don't know each other. They don't know each other because they can't communicate with each other. They can't communicate with each other because they're separated from each other.