I just want to make two points. One, I want to thank Jesse Jackson for being there on this issue for a long time, saying we would never be the country we ought to be until we really had economic opportunity for all—that's what the Wall Street Project is all about—and that it would be good business, as well as good morality.

The second point I want to make, that I made today and I leave with all of you is, this is the only time in my lifetime we have had a booming economy, improvements in all of our social fabric, the absence of crisis at home and domestic threats, and the absence of threats to our security around the world as big as those we faced in the cold war. None of this has ever happened before. The big question before us is, what are we going to do with this magic moment? Are we going to take the long look into the future and do the big things that America needs, or are we going to indulge ourselves in shortsighted frittering away of our present wealth and serenity at home and stability around the world?

I'm just telling you, we will never be the country we ought to be until every person, including the people and places that have been left behind in this remarkable recovery, has a chance to live the American dream. We will never be as safe a country, as whole a country, the one America we ought to be, until everybody has a chance.

That's what the Wall Street Project is all about. That's what my new markets initiative is all about. And I want to implore you to use this millennial year of 2000 to ask all of our fellow Americans to think about those who could be a part of what we celebrate and thank God for every day, but aren't yet. If we make them a part of it, we'll really give a gift to our children and to the 21st century.

Thank you, and God bless you all. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 7:48 p.m. at the Bell Podium at the New York Stock Exchange. In his remarks he referred to Rev. Jesse Jackson, founder and president, Rainbow/PUSH Coalition, and his wife, Jacqueline; and Richard Grasso, chairman and chief executive officer, New York Stock Exchange.

Remarks at a Democratic National Committee Reception in New York City
January 13, 2000

The President. Thank you. First of all, let me say I've had a good time tonight. I've enjoyed taking the pictures with all of you, and it's the only way I get to make absolutely sure I meet everyone. [*Laughter*] So I'm sorry that we had to do it so quickly, but at least I got to see all of you briefly.

I want to thank John and Margo for opening their beautiful home for us and for being my wonderful friends for a very long time now. And I want to thank the other cochairs of this event for the efforts that you made and the success that you had. And I would like to just take a moment to say some things that may be obvious to all of you about why I think it's important that you did this tonight.

When I ran for President in 1992—and I'm quite sure that most people in New York could not imagine voting for a guy who was Governor of a State that many people here couldn't find on a map, you know—[*laughter*]—as President Bush said, a small southern State. [*Laughter*]

Let me say something else—I know I usually get on—[*inaudible*]. I keep reading—several times in my tenure, for various reasons, the press has said that I was a lame duck, and now they say I really am because I only have a year to serve. You know what a lame duck is, really? That's when you're supposed to show up at an event, and you do, and nobody else is there. [*Laughter*] So you all were immensely reassuring to me tonight, and I thank you. I'll sleep well tonight. I thank you very much.

But let me say to you——

Audience member. [*Inaudible*]

The President. Listen, that is—part of the reason we're here tonight; it's a high-tech economy, you know all these cell phones——

Audience member. Buy 500 shares. [*Laughter*]

The President. Even I know it's—[*inaudible*]. The thing that I want to say about it, just very