

CONCLUSION

At this moment of economic crisis and uncertainty, our country is being tested. We can continue the irresponsible ways of the past and pretend that our problems are not there. We can put off for tomorrow what must be done today. And we can just concern ourselves with ourselves—pursuing profits without any regard for principles. Or we can take a new path, usher in a new era of responsibility, and renew America's promise. We can jumpstart our economy and create or save millions of jobs. We can invest now to address the long-term drags on our economic competitiveness. And we can create a government that is open and responsive to the people it serves.

Especially now, this may seem like a difficult course to take. But it is precisely in these tough times that America has always come through. Through Depressions and disasters, world wars and the Cold War, our Nation has turned moments of adversity into opportunities of great progress. Once again, we face such a moment, and it is up to each of us to roll up our sleeves and show, once again, that we are equal to the task at hand; that we are committed to the hard work of getting America moving again.

This Budget lays out a plan for our Nation to get back on its feet and restore our competitiveness in this new century. It details how we are going to steer the United States out of this deep recession, and begins laying the groundwork for long-term growth. It makes overdue investments in improving our schools and opening up opportunities to learn for all our children. It explains how we are going to build the infrastructure upon which our entrepreneurs and inventors will build the industries and create the jobs of tomorrow. The Budget includes a bold commitment to

improving our health care system and reforming it so that it no longer is a weight on our economy. Recognizing how critical it is to tackle climate change as well as the immense opportunity that investments in clean energy technology present to our economy, the Budget invests in this promising sector. Finally, the Budget reflects how important it is that we keep our people safe and keep America leading in the world, with investments in our armed services and international capabilities.

This Budget also reflects the belief that Americans deserve a government that is open, honest, and accountable. New transparency and program integrity initiatives will be started that will open the doors of the Government to the public and help make sure that taxpayer dollars are spent wisely and carefully. Moreover, the Budget itself does not use budget gimmicks or accounting sleights-of-hand to hide our plans or the status of our economy. It is forthright in the challenges we face and the sacrifices we must make. It is honest in evaluating what programs work and which do not; shifting resources from the latter to the former.

Overcoming the problems we have inherited will not be completed in one budget, in one month, or in one year. It will take months and years of ingenuity and innovation, courage and commitment. It will take all Americans, including those in Washington and beyond living up to the responsibilities we have to each other as neighbors and citizens. But if we come together and pull together, there is little doubt that America will be growing, innovating, and creating jobs for generations to come.

