

global economic partners have witnessed one of the worst recessions of the century. The Society for Pediatric Research occupied new offices in Chicago. Forty million Americans had no medical insurance, and a third of the children in the land continued to live in poverty. I moved to San Francisco and became Chair of a department of pediatrics. A basketball star and a tennis great announced that they had been infected by the human immunodeficiency virus. Several thousand infants who had also acquired this pathogen were born in this country. Apartheid ended in South Africa. Minorities in the United States continued to suffer social and economic discrimination, which led to the destruction of portions of several of our major cities. The Society for Pediatric Research council met twice, elected 85 new members, and planned meetings through the year 2003. The National Institute of Child Health and Human Development funded eight new Child Health Research Centers and the NIH spent 8 billion dollars on research while the Department of Defense committed nearly 300 billion dollars to keep us ready to fight in the next

Gulf war. During the course of all these events, I grew a year older, not very much wiser, and served as your President.

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