



December 8, 1994

Dear Friend:

I can always tell when the Christmas season is here; holiday music fills the air; the weather turns colder and "It's a Wonderful Life" seems to be playing on almost every television channel. Frank Capra's classic movie about self-sacrifice, friendship and redemption is one of our family's favorites. Besides carrying an uplifting spiritual message, "It's a Wonderful Life" is a very romantic, very American film as well.

In one of its crucial scenes, Jimmy Stewart's character, George Bailey, is standing next to his high school sweetheart, Mary, played by Donna Reed. She is talking on the phone to a mutual friend who has struck it rich in business and she distractedly repeats the friend's words so that George can hear. He is even more distracted, however, and can focus only on her, as he fights the feelings of love welling up within him. Finally, in words laden with double meaning, Mary repeats to George the friend's offer of participation in a business deal: "He says, 'It's the chance of a lifetime.'"

You probably know the rest of this beautiful story. George and Mary do take the chance of a lifetime. But that chance turns out not to be on success in business, but rather on success in love, marriage and friendship — the things in life that really do matter. And these are some of the very same things that give FRC reason to be in Washington.

I am writing to you this Christmas because of what many see as another "chance of a lifetime." Once again, it's not a business opportunity. Today, I believe we have a real chance to exert an even greater influence on the public policy debate regarding family, faith, and freedom. That chance was clearly summarized on the front page of the Nov. 10 *New York Times*. Under a banner headline, Adam Clymer described the peaceful revolution that took place in this year's congressional elections. He also reported that the first 100 days of the new Congress are likely to see bills passed implementing welfare reform, a presidential line-item veto, and... an increase in "*the tax benefits for parents with children*" [emphasis added].

