

The second point I wish to make is that I cannot succeed as President unless Congress itself succeeds and the American people like the Congress again, too. For I seek to do, and to do we have to work together and move forward together.

So I would like, in gratitude and respect, to propose a toast to a new partnership in America's Government.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:20 p.m. in Statuary Hall at the Capitol. Prior to his remarks, Thomas S. Foley, Speaker of the House of Representatives, presented the President with a key to the Capitol. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Message to the Congress on Adjustment of the National Deficit

January 21, 1993

To the Congress of the United States:

Pursuant to section 254(c) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, as amended ("Act") (2 U.S.C. 904(c)), notification is hereby provided of my decision that the adjustment of the maximum deficit amount, as allowed under section 253(g)(1)(B) of the Act (2 U.S.C. 903(g)(1)(B)), shall be made.

William J. Clinton

The White House,
January 21, 1993.

NOTE: The White House released the following statement by the Director of Communications George Stephanopoulos on adjustment of the national deficit:

As provided by the law, the President has today notified the congressional leadership of technical adjustments to be made in calculating the national deficit.

This procedure, which occurred automatically under the previous administration for 3 fiscal years, prevents across-the-board budget reductions in accounts such as national defense that could equal 11 percent in the beginning of the next fiscal year.

A failure to make this adjustment would also undermine the credibility of economic and budget estimates.

President Clinton will soon put before the Congress a real economic program aimed at reducing the deficit and providing long-term economic growth.

Remarks to Groups from the Inaugural Parade

January 21, 1993

The President. Thank you. One of the first lessons that I was told to learn about becoming President is that the President could not fix all the problems in America. [Laughter] But this is pretty close to fixing the float breaking down, don't you think?

I want to make sure that I have properly acknowledged all the groups that are here, so I want to call your names, and you raise your hand if you're in one of these groups. Who's here from the Sounds of Silence in Canton, Ohio? [Applause] Thank you. I'd also like to say I'm glad to see Senators Glenn and Metzenbaum here. Give them a hand. [Applause] Who's here from the Boy Singers of Maine? [Applause] From my alma mater, the Georgetown Chimes? [Applause] And the Georgetown Grace Notes? [Applause] And from Hillary's alma mater, the Wellesley Widows? [Applause]

Hillary Clinton. Just two left. They all had to go back to school.

The President. Two hung in there to be represented tonight. [Laughter] I'm very sorry about what happened yesterday, but I'm glad you're all here today.

Anybody want to sing me a quick song?

Hillary Clinton. Let's start in order.

The President. All right, we'll start in order. The Sounds of Silence go first.

NOTE: The President spoke at 6:45 p.m. on the State Floor at the White House. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Statement on Withdrawal of the Nomination of Zoe Baird To Be Attorney General

January 22, 1993

Tonight, I received a letter from my Attorney-General-designate, Ms. Zoe Baird, asking that I withdraw her nomination to lead the United States Department of Justice from further consideration by the Senate.

Ms. Baird is a gifted attorney and a woman of decency and integrity. She responded to the call to public service with energy and a firm dedication to the mission of the Justice Department. Her candid disclosure of the child care matter to officials of my transition and to the Senate Judiciary Committee led to the circumstances we face today.

Clearly, our review process prior to her selection failed to evaluate this issue completely. For that, I take full responsibility. I hold Zoe Baird in the highest regard, and I believe she has much to give to her profession and to our country. I hope to continue to seek her advice and counsel. With sadness, I have accepted her request that the nomination be withdrawn and have so informed the Senate majority leader, George Mitchell.

Letter Accepting Zoe Baird's Withdrawal as a Nominee To Be Attorney General

January 22, 1993

Dear Zoe:

I have received your letter asking that I withdraw your nomination as Attorney General of the United States from further consideration by the Senate. With sadness, I accept your request that the nomination be withdrawn.

You are an exceptionally gifted attorney, and a person of great decency and integrity. You have responded to the call of public service with energy and a firm dedication to the mission of the Justice Department. I realize that it was your candid disclosure of the child care matter that led to the circumstances we face today. I believe that the concerns raised about your child care situation were unique to the position of Attorney General.

You are highly qualified to be Attorney General. Your stated goals for a nonpartisan, independent and strongly managed Department of Justice were fully in accord with my own. I believe you would have been a fine Attorney General.

Hillary and I value your and Paul's friendship. We look forward to seeing you often. I hope that you will be available for other assignments for your country in my Administration.

Sincerely,

Bill Clinton

NOTE: The White House also made available Ms. Baird's letter requesting that her nomination to be Attorney General be withdrawn.

Remarks at the Swearing-In Ceremony for Cabinet Members

January 22, 1993

The President. Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. Today I am proud to present to you and to the American people a Cabinet of talented, diverse, and seasoned leaders.

I'm deeply gratified to the United States Senate for their quick confirmation of 18 nominees only 2 days after the Inauguration. The Senate acted with historic dispatch because it recognizes that our Nation needs action now on our problems. I very much appreciate that, and like them I am ready to get to work.

Ladies and gentlemen, I would like to now present the Chief Justice to administer the oath of office. Mr. Chief Justice.

Chief Justice Rehnquist. Would you each raise your right hands and repeat after me. And the first phrase is "I, blank," and obviously there you insert your name—[laughter]—"do solemnly swear."

[At this point, the Chief Justice administered the oath of office.]

The President. Let me, first of all, say I'm glad no one said "I, blank." [Laughter] There will be time enough for those blanks in the days ahead. [Laughter]