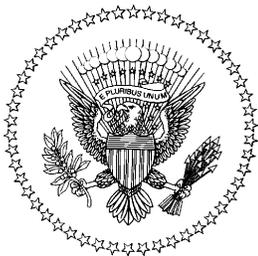


Weekly Compilation of
**Presidential
Documents**



Monday, February 1, 1993
Volume 29—Number 4
Pages 93–114

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Editor's Note: A cumulative index to Bush administration documents in 1993 issues 1–3 will be incorporated in the 1992 Annual Index, being printed separately.

WEEKLY COMPILATION OF PRESIDENTIAL DOCUMENTS

Published every Monday by the Office of the Federal Register, National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, DC 20408, the *Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents* contains statements, messages, and other Presidential materials released by the White House during the preceding week.

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There are no restrictions on the republication of material appearing in the *Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents*.

Week Ending Friday, January 29, 1993

Memorandum on Review of Regulations

January 21, 1993

*Memorandum for the Acting Director
Office of Management and Budget*

The Council on Competitiveness, established March 31, 1989, terminated on January 20, 1993.

Pending completion of a review, existing Executive orders on regulatory management will continue to apply. You are directed to request the agencies described in section 1(d) of Executive Order 12291 to assure that in publishing regulations, and subject to such exceptions as the Director or the Acting Director of the Office of Management and Budget determines to be appropriate, all regulations must first be approved by an agency head or the designee of an agency head who, in either case, is a person appointed by me and confirmed by the Senate.

William J. Clinton

NOTE: This memorandum was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on January 22. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

Statement on the Death of Justice Thurgood Marshall

January 24, 1993

I am deeply saddened by the passing of Justice Thurgood Marshall. He was a giant in the quest for human rights and equal opportunity in this century. Every American should be grateful for the contributions he made as an advocate and Justice of the United States Supreme Court.

Proclamation 6526—Death of Thurgood Marshall

January 24, 1993

*By the President of the United States
of America*

A Proclamation

Thurgood Marshall, an African-American born and reared in segregated America, was a fundamental force of change in this Nation. Perhaps no other American lawyer has had more impact on the current meaning and content of the U.S. Constitution. As the leading attorney for the N.A.A.C.P. Legal Defense and Education Fund, Justice Marshall's twenty-nine victories before the U.S. Supreme Court breathed life into the text of the Fourteenth Amendment and guaranteed all Americans equality and liberty in their individual choices concerning voting, housing, education, and travel. As an appeals court judge, the Solicitor General of the United States and, finally, Supreme Court Justice, he worked tirelessly to expand and protect his vision of justice for America. As our Nation begins to chart its course for the next century, it is fitting that we pause to honor and remember the courageous, purposeful life of Thurgood Marshall.

As a mark of respect for the memory of Thurgood Marshall, former Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, I hereby order by the authority vested in me as President of the United States of America by section 175 of title 36 of the United States Code, that the flag of the United States shall be flown at half-staff upon all public buildings and grounds, at all military posts and naval stations, and on all naval vessels of the Federal Government in the District of Columbia and throughout the United States and its Territories and Possessions until his interment. I also direct that the flag shall be flown at half-staff for the same length of time at all United States embassies, legations, con-

sular offices, and other facilities abroad, including all military facilities and naval vessels and stations.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-fourth day of January, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-three, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred seventeenth.

William J. Clinton

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 1:45 a.m., January 25, 1993]

NOTE: This proclamation was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on January 25, and it was published in the Federal Register on January 27.

Remarks on the Establishment of the National Economic Council and an Exchange With Reporters

January 25, 1993

The President. This is the Executive order which establishes the National Economic Council and which brings into the economic policymaking of the Federal Government not just the traditional Secretaries of Treasury, OMB, the Council of Economic Advisers, but also the Departments of Commerce, Labor, Agriculture, HUD, Transportation, Energy, EPA, as well as the Trade Office, State, so that we can all work together. I want to thank all of the people around this table for all the work they've done on this and especially Mr. Rubin for the work that he's done to try to reconcile all these things. I believe that this will enable us to make economic policy in a much more specific, clear, and effective way than the Federal Government has in quite a long while.

[At this point, the President signed the Executive order.]

Gays in the Military

Q. If the Joint Chiefs oppose this lifting of the ban on gays in the military, are you still going to go ahead with that?

The President. I'm going to meet with them and discuss it this afternoon. But I intend to keep my commitment. I want their input on how we should do it, however. I think they're entitled to really be listened to on a lot of the practical issues.

Q. Is this part of what you said in your Inaugural Address, that it will require sacrifice?

The President. I think everybody wants to make a contribution to solving these problems, and we're going to give everyone the opportunity to do that.

Q. How quickly will you lift this ban, Mr. President?

The President. I don't have anything else to say about it right now. We're going to have a meeting—

Q. Are you going to have a meeting on it?

The President. I want to talk to the Joint Chiefs about that, and then I'll have a statement to make later.

Q. Today?

The President. I don't know. We've got a lot of other things to do today. Maybe; I don't know.

Taxes

Q. Mr. President, can you say anything about the consumption tax that Senator Bentsen addressed yesterday?

The President. No. I thought he did a very good job on television. I wasn't sure that I was reading about the same interview in the press this morning. He said that no decision had been made, and no decision has been made. We have a lot of options under consideration, but no decision has been made.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:30 a.m. in the Roosevelt Room at the White House. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

**Executive Order 12835—
Establishment of the National
Economic Council**
January 25, 1993

By the authority vested in me as President of the United States by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including sections 105, 107, and 301 of title 3, United States Code, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. Establishment. There is established the National Economic Council (“the Council”).

Sec. 2. Membership. The Council shall comprise the:

- (a) President, who shall serve as Chairman of the Council;
- (b) Vice President;
- (c) Secretary of State;
- (d) Secretary of the Treasury;
- (e) Secretary of Agriculture;
- (f) Secretary of Commerce;
- (g) Secretary of Labor;
- (h) Secretary of Housing and Urban Development;
- (i) Secretary of Transportation;
- (j) Secretary of Energy;
- (k) Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency;
- (l) Chair of the Council of Economic Advisers;
- (m) Director of the Office of Management and Budget;
- (n) United States Trade Representative;
- (o) Assistant to the President for Economic Policy;
- (p) Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy;
- (q) National Security Adviser;
- (r) Assistant to the President for Science and Technology Policy; and
- (s) Such other officials of executive departments and agencies as the President may, from time to time, designate.

Sec. 3. Meetings of the Council. The President, or upon his direction, the Assistant to the President for Economic Policy (“the Assistant”), may convene meetings of the Council. The President shall preside over the meetings of the Council, provided that in his

absence the Vice President, and in his absence the Assistant, will preside.

Sec. 4. Functions. (a) The principal functions of the Council are: (1) to coordinate the economic policy-making process with respect to domestic and international economic issues; (2) to coordinate economic policy advice to the President; (3) to ensure that economic policy decisions and programs are consistent with the President’s stated goals, and to ensure that those goals are being effectively pursued; and (4) to monitor implementation of the President’s economic policy agenda. The Assistant may take such actions, including drafting a Charter, as may be necessary or appropriate to implement such functions.

(b) All executive departments and agencies, whether or not represented on the Council, shall coordinate economic policy through the Council.

(c) In performing the foregoing functions, the Assistant will, when appropriate, work in conjunction with the Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy and the Assistant to the President for National Security.

(d) The Secretary of the Treasury will continue to be the senior economic official in the executive branch and the President’s chief economic spokesperson. The Director of the Office of Management and Budget, as the President’s principal budget spokesperson, will continue to be the senior budget official in the executive branch. The Council of Economic Advisers will continue its traditional analytic, forecasting and advisory functions.

Sec. 5. Administration. (a) The Council may function through established or ad hoc committees, task forces or interagency groups.

(b) The Council shall have a staff to be headed by the Assistant to the President for Economic Policy. The Council shall have such staff and other assistance as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this order.

(c) All executive departments and agencies shall cooperate with the Council and provide such assistance, information, and advice to

the Council as the Council may request, to the extent permitted by law.

William J. Clinton

The White House,
January 25, 1993.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 2:07 p.m., January 25, 1993]

NOTE: This Executive order was published in the Federal Register on January 27.

Remarks on Health Care Reform and an Exchange With Reporters

January 25, 1993

I want to say good afternoon to members of the press. We have just finished a very lively discussion about the massive task before us in health care. Vice President Gore and I made a strong commitment to the American people during the last election that we would present to the United States Congress, within 100 days, a plan that would take strong action to control health care costs in America and to begin to provide for the health care needs of all Americans.

As I traveled across the country last year, no stories moved me more than the health care stories. As I think all of you know, many of the people in our Faces of Hope luncheon last week during the Inaugural were people who were struggling to overcome incredible adversity occasioned by their health care problems. We've met elderly people choosing every week between medicine and food; we've met people forced to leave their jobs to get on public assistance to deal with children with terrific problems; we've met countless people who can't change their jobs because they or someone in their family have had health care problems.

You will all remember, at the economic conference that we sponsored in Little Rock, perhaps the overwhelming concern of the business people there, of all sizes, was doing something about the cost and the availability of health care. When the Vice President and I met with the big three auto makers and the president of the United Auto Workers, once again they said, if you want to do some-

thing to help rebuild the auto industry, do something to control health care costs. And as Mr. Panetta just said again, in a rather plaintive way before you came in, there is no way we will ever get control of the Federal budget deficit unless we do something about health care.

The message is pretty simple. It's time to make sense of America's health care system. It's time to bring costs under control and to make our families and businesses secure. It's time to make good on the American promise that too many people have talked about for too long, while we have continued to spend more than 30 percent more of our income on health care than any other nation in the world, get less for it, and see 100,000 Americans a month losing their health insurance.

As a first step in responding to the demands of literally millions of Americans, today I am announcing the formation of the President's Task Force on National Health Reform. Although the issue is complex, the task force's mission is simple: Build on the work of the campaign and the transition, listen to all parties, and prepare health care reform legislation to be submitted to Congress within 100 days of our taking office.

This task force will be chaired by the First Lady, Hillary Rodham Clinton, and will include the Secretaries of Health and Human Services, Treasury, Defense, Veterans Affairs, Commerce, Labor, as well as the Director of the Office of Management and Budget and senior White House staff members.

I am grateful that Hillary has agreed to chair this task force and not only because it means she'll be sharing some of the heat I expect to generate. As many of you know, while I was Governor of my State, Hillary chaired the Arkansas Education Standards Committee, which created public school accreditation standards that have since become a model for national reform. She served as my designee on the Southern Regional Task Force on Infant Mortality, was also chair of our State's rural health committee in 1979 and 1980, a time in which we initiated a number of health care reforms that benefit the people of my State to the present day. And on the board of the Arkansas Children's Hos-

pital, she helped to establish our State's first neonatal unit.

I think that in the coming months the American people will learn, as the people of our State did, that we have a First Lady of many talents, that who most of all can bring people together around complex and difficult issues to hammer out consensus and get things done.

Here in the White House, Hillary will work with my domestic policy adviser, Carol Rasco; my senior policy adviser, Ira Magaziner; and the head of our health care transition team, Judy Feder. I've asked all of them to be as inclusive as possible. And as a part of that, we are inviting the American public to write us here at the White House with their suggestions. All of them should be sent to the Task Force on National Health Care Reform at the White House in Washington, DC 20500.

We will no doubt be criticized by some for undertaking something very, very ambitious. But as I said in my Inaugural Address, we're going to have to make some tough choices in order to control health care costs, to bring them down within inflation, and to provide health care for all. In order to preserve the vitality of the American private sector, in order to keep the American people's budget here at this national level from going totally bankrupt, we are going to have to make some tough choices. Powerful lobbies and special interests may seek to derail our efforts, and we may make some people angry. But we are determined to come up with the best possible solution. And in my lifetime, at least, there has never been so much consensus that something has to be done.

We have a plan from the American Nurses Association, from the American Academy of Physicians, from the American Academy of Family Practice, from the health insurance industry itself. We have a plan uniting business and labor. There is an overwhelming knowledge that we have to move and move now. We are going to do our best to reform our system. We are going to do our best to meet the human needs of the people of this country.

There are all kinds of problems that have to be dealt with that we haven't even discussed yet: access to care in inner cities and

rural areas, coverage for little children, dealing with the AIDS crisis adequately, still unmet needs in the area of women's health care, the problem of the veterans in this country who don't have access to care, even as their own network goes broke. All these issues will be dealt with in this task force. This is going to be an unprecedented effort. And let me just say, in general, we're going to set up a workroom, kind of like the war room we had in the campaign, over in the Executive Office Building. And all of the departments you see here represented and leaders you see represented around this table will be represented in that room. And we are going to work constantly, day and night, until we have a health care plan ready to submit to the Congress that we believe we can pass.

Finally, let me say I am committed to doing this in a partnership with the Congress. I will ask the leadership of the Congress to work with me on a bipartisan basis and to do whatever we can to make sure that as we present the plan, we have also maximized its chances of early passage in the Congress.

I thank all these people for their willingness to serve and to work together. I hope the American people will see just how passionately I personally am committed to doing something about health care reform. We've talked about it long enough. The time has come to act, and I have chosen the course that I think is most likely to lead to action that will improve the lives of millions of Americans.

Q. Mr. President, can you provide universal coverage without driving up the deficit?

The President. I think you can do it if you control the cost of health care. You have to really—let me just—I don't want to get into one of these things that provoke a lot of cartoons about my policy wonk weakness, but we're at 14 percent of our income on health care now. The next most expensive health care system in the world is Canada's. It's at about 9.2 percent of income. That is a huge difference, massive. And yet, every other major country with which we compete provides some basic health care to everybody, something we don't do. So the answer to your question is, in my judgment, if we do this right over the next 8 years, you're

going to see huge savings in tax dollars and even bigger savings, more than twice the savings, in private dollars that will free up hundreds of billions of dollars literally between now and the end of the decade to reinvest in economic growth and opportunity.

In the short run, our tough call will be how do you take the savings and phase in universal coverage. Or should there be some other way to pay for that? We've got some short-term calls to make. But there's no question that in the median term, 5 to 8 years, you're looking at massive savings with universal coverage in both tax dollars and private sector dollars if we do it right.

Q. Mr. President, do you intend to pay the First Lady for her efforts?

The President. No. No. I never have paid her for her public service efforts. I don't want to start now.

Q. Is 100 days hard and fast, or are you willing to be flexible on that if it's not quite ready?

The President. If it were 101 days I wouldn't have a heart attack, but I don't want to—I want it done now. I think we know what the major alternatives are. What we have to do now is something nobody's done, and that is to meld them into the best possible legislation, taking account of some of the problems that exist with every course.

And let me make one acknowledgment on the front end about this. Legitimate objections can be raised to any course of action in this area. That is, there is no such thing as a perfect solution. So whatever course we choose to take, somebody can say, "Well, it's not perfect for these reasons." To that, I have two answers, and I'm going to say this until I'm blue in the face for this entire year until we get action. Number one, the worst thing we can do is keep on doing what we're doing now, because more and more people are falling out of the system and the cost is becoming more and more burdensome to those who are still bearing it. So whatever course we take, we will preserve what is best about American health care, some consumer choice and the quality of care. So whatever problems we have, they won't be as bad as the ones we've got now. Number two, this is not going to be the end of the line. Whatever problems are there can be fixed later. But

we will never, never get anywhere if we stand paralyzed, because there's no such thing as a perfect alternative.

Q. What factors did you consider in giving this high-profile position to Mrs. Clinton?

The President. Of all the people I've ever worked with in my life, she's better at organizing and leading people from a complex beginning to a certain end than anybody I've ever worked with in my life. And that's what I want done here.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:02 p.m. in the Roosevelt Room at the White House at a meeting of the Health Care Working Group.

Statement by the Director of Communications on the President's Meeting With the Joint Chiefs of Staff

January 25, 1993

The President and the Joint Chiefs of Staff had a cordial, honest, and respectful meeting. They covered a range of issues but focused primarily on gays in the military.

The President reiterated his commitment to ending discrimination against homosexuals in the military solely on the basis of status and to maintaining morale and cohesion in the military.

The Joint Chiefs of Staff expressed their concerns and difficulties with the President's commitment but also expressed their respect for his decisionmaking power as Commander in Chief.

Appointment of John D. Hart as Deputy Assistant to the President and Deputy Director of the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs

January 25, 1993

The President today appointed John D. Hart to the position of Deputy Assistant to

the President and Deputy Director of the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs.

For the last several months, Hart has been a senior transition staffer, serving as Special Assistant to then-transition director Warren Christopher and to Thomas “Mack” McLarty following his appointment as Chief of Staff. Hart had been deputy director of the Clinton/Gore Transition Planning Foundation, the pre-transition organization that was formed during the general election campaign. During the 1992 primary campaign, Hart played a vital role as director of delegate operations. Previously, he had been an attorney in Washington, DC, and a judicial clerk for the Honorable James T. Turner of the U.S. Claims Court.

Appointment of Arthur Jones and Lorraine Voles as Deputy White House Press Secretaries

January 25, 1993

The President today appointed two veteran press secretaries, Arthur Jones and Lorraine Voles, to serve as Deputy White House Press Secretaries.

Voles served as deputy traveling press secretary for the Clinton/Gore campaign and has been press secretary to Senator Tom Harkin of Iowa since 1989. Prior to that she was a project director with the Natural Resources Defense Council and was national deputy press secretary for the Dukakis/Bentsen campaign. She will begin work at the White House on Monday, February 1.

Jones has been press secretary to Boston Mayor Ray Flynn since 1987. Prior to that he served as deputy press secretary to former Massachusetts Governor Michael Dukakis and was a reporter for the Boston Globe. He begins work on Monday, February 8.

Exchange With Reporters Prior to a Meeting with Congressional Leaders

January 26, 1993

Q. Mr. President, are you going to have a policy statement on gays in the military by the end of the week?

The President. I’m going to talk to the leadership of Congress about our legislative agenda.

Q. How do you feel your meeting with the Joint Chiefs went yesterday, Mr. President?

The President. It was a very good meeting. I was very impressed by them. The country’s well served.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:38 a.m. in the Cabinet Room at the White House.

Nomination of Thomas R. Pickering To Be United States Ambassador to Russia

January 26, 1993

President Clinton announced today that he intends to nominate Thomas R. Pickering as Ambassador of the United States of America to the Russian Federation. Ambassador Pickering is a career Foreign Service officer who holds the personal rank of Career Ambassador, the highest in the U.S. Foreign Service. He has served his country with distinction in a series of senior positions, most recently as Ambassador to India.

In making this announcement, President Clinton said, “It is essential that we continue to expand and develop our relationship with Russia. I want to do everything I can to support democratic and economic reform there and want an experienced and dedicated Ambassador to represent our Nation in Moscow. Ambassador Pickering has demonstrated throughout his career that he has the ability and wisdom to carry out this important assignment. I have full confidence in him.”

NOTE: A biography of Ambassador Pickering was attached to the press release.

Nomination of Jim King To Be Director of the Office of Personnel Management

January 26, 1993

President Clinton today announced that he intends to nominate Jim King as Director of the Office of Personnel Management.

“Jim King will bring invaluable expertise, knowledge, and enthusiasm to the Office of Personnel Management,” said President Clinton.

Mr. King currently serves as chief of staff for U.S. Senator John Kerry. He previously served as senior vice president for government and community affairs at Northeastern University and Special Assistant to the President in the Office of Presidential Personnel during the Carter administration. Other experience includes chairman of the board of the Massachusetts Aeronautics Commission; associate vice president, State and community affairs, at Harvard University; and Chairman of the Board and member of the National Transportation and Safety Board.

The Office of Personnel Management administers a merit system for Federal employment that includes recruiting, examining, training, and promoting people on the basis of their knowledge and skills, regardless of race, religion, sex, political influence, or other nonmerit factors. “I am deeply honored to accept this challenging role of ensuring that the Federal Government has the best, brightest, and most diversified work force we possibly can,” said King. The Office’s role is to ensure that the Federal Government provides an array of personnel services to applicants and employees.

Mr. King received his bachelor of arts at the American International College and is a fellow at the Harvard University Kennedy School of Government Institute of Politics.

Exchange With Reporters Prior to a Meeting With Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan

January 28, 1993

Q. Mr. President, what’s the principle you’re fighting for in sticking with your plan to ban gays in the military? What’s the principle that you believe that makes you want to stick with that?

The President. I came here to talk about the economy today with Mr. Greenspan. If he wants to express his opinion on that subject, I’ll be glad to hear it. [*Laughter*] Most people with whom I talk, except you folks, never discuss that. We have other things we’re trying to deal with.

Q. Sir, there was good news about the economy—[*inaudible*]

The President. I think that there’s a lot of response to the efforts we’re making now, but there’s also a lot of troubling news about lost jobs. And we’ve got a lot of work to do, a lot of work to do.

NOTE: The exchange began at 9:37 a.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Remarks Honoring the School Principal of the Year and an Exchange With Reporters

January 28, 1993

The President. This is Janie R. Hill Hatton from Milwaukee, and she is the School Principal of the Year. You can tell she’s from Wisconsin because Senator Kohl is here, but I have to tell you she also grew up in my hometown of Hot Springs, Arkansas. We grew up in the same town. She’s younger than I am. [*Laughter*]

That’s her husband, Isaac, who also comes from Arkansas. And these other three gentlemen are with the National Association of School Principals.

Mrs. Hatton. And MetLife.

The President. And MetLife which sponsors this award. She gave me two paperweights for my wife and daughter, and now you're going to give me something, right?

Mrs. Hatton. Right. This is a hat for you to jog in, as well as, when the days are cold, the long jogging pants, "Tech has style." And the mornings when it's kind of warm, you can wear the short ones that says "Tech, Milwaukee." This is the one that we're most proud of because '93 Tech and when you have said Milwaukee Tech, you've said it all. And we invite you to Tech at all times, any time. We're building a referendum issue February 16. We want you to think thumbs up because that style is really good. So, wear it with pride. And Tech is an important—

The President. I think it sounds good, don't you? That's great.

Mrs. Hatton. Thank you so much, Mr. President.

The President. I'm proud of you.

Mrs. Hatton. I'm proud of you. Great things happen to great people.

The President. Thank you.

Meeting With Members of Congress

Q. Mr. President, are you building incentives to help the economy and working with Congress? Are you getting momentum having all these meetings with the Hill, with Chairman Greenspan?

The President. Well, I think so. You know, we've got a lot more meetings ahead. I'm going to have a huge number of meetings, I hope, next week with Members. I needed this first week just to kind of get our feet on the ground here and get organized and get ready. But I have held a lot of meetings with Congress, and I'll do many more next week. I'll do as many as I can leading up to the February 17 address to the joint session. And after that I'll do as many more as I can.

Gays in the Military

Q. Mr. President, are you confident that you'll ever get the ban on gays in the military lifted?

The President. Well, we're working on the resolution in the Senate, as you know. And I've been working mostly on economic issues today, so I just heard from my staff. But they seem to think we're pretty close to—

Q. Are you satisfied with 6 months down the road?

The President. I'm satisfied with what I hope the resolution will be. You'll have to come back in when there's final language there.

I think the Joint Chiefs should have 6 months to deal with the practical issues involved. This is not the issues. This is not free of difficulty. There are certain factual problems involved.

But the principle—let me answer the question Mark [Mark Halperin, ABC News] asked me this morning about the principle. The principle behind this for me is that Americans who are willing to conform to the requirements of conduct—military services, in my judgment, should be able to serve in the military and that people should be disqualified from serving in the military based on something they do, not based on who they are. That is the elemental principle.

There is actually an enormous amount of agreement on this. The Joint Chiefs agree, for example, that we should not anymore ask people about their sexual orientation when they enlist. And I believe that any sort of improper conduct should result in severance. The narrow issue on which there is disagreement is whether people should be able to say that they're homosexual without being—and do nothing else—without being severed. But there are a whole lot of very complicated practical questions that flow from that very narrow issue. And that's what I want to have 6 months to give them a chance to work on. So, I hope we can.

NOTE: The President spoke at 4:50 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Exchange With Reporters Prior to a Meeting With the Close-Up Foundation

January 29, 1993

Gays in the Military

Q. Mr. President, when are you going to announce your policy on gays in the military? What time today?

The President. Well, we're waiting for an analysis of the court decision now and how it affects what we would have to do anyway. So, that sort of—we were here, as you know, last night with Senator Nunn, and I thought it was quite close to an agreement that would give the military what I think ought to be done without anybody agreeing to change their position now—give them a chance to look into what the practical problems are. But this court decision may change that, and we are looking at it. And I will probably have something to say later today.

Q. But do you—decision because—get through now?

The President. Well, we talked about it a little last night, but I wanted to—the staff stayed here quite late. I thought they ought to get a chance to get a little sleep and then think through it. So, as you know, there is virtual agreement on everything but one issue anyway. So, you are trying to figure out how this court case fits, that and whether it changes anything for either side.

So, we'll talk about it this morning and then try to resolve it soon.

Q. Are you concerned, Mr. President, that this controversy this week has given the American people the wrong idea of what your priorities are?

The President. Yes, I do. Of course, I didn't bring it up; people in the Senate did. I just tried—I have not, frankly, spent very much time on it compared to the time I'm spending on the economy, which is what I was elected to do. And we've been working on that hard. So, I'm just going to keep doing what I was elected to do and try to stick up for what I believe and see if we can work through this.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:37 a.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. A tape was not

available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Teleconference Remarks on the Family and Medical Leave Bill

January 29, 1993

The Vice President. Ladies and gentleman, can you hear me? This is Vice President Al Gore. I am going to introduce the President to you in just a moment. I want to start by thanking all of you for joining us on this conference call. It's especially important for your point of view to be heard by the Congress and by the Nation because this family and medical leave act will be acted upon next week by the Congress.

What's different this time, of course, is we have in President Bill Clinton a President who is in favor of it and who is prepared to sign it into law. So with the Congress and the President working together in behalf of the American people, we feel pretty good about the chances that this will be enacted. But the main reason for enacting it is you, and we're looking forward to hearing from you.

Before introducing the President, I want to mention some people in the Congress who have worked long and hard on this: Chairman Bill Ford in the House of Representatives; and Pat Williams from Montana; Marge Roukema, a Republican from New Jersey, who's been a real leader on this issue; Bill Clay from Missouri; and Pat Schroeder from Colorado. And then on the Senate side: Chris Dodd, who has fought for this tirelessly, along with Chairman Ted Kennedy; and Kit Bond, a Republican from Missouri; Dan Coats, a Republican from Indiana, both of whom have been very helpful in pushing this idea forward.

But again, what it's all about is you and the experiences that you have had. And with that, I want to turn it over to President Bill Clinton.

The President. Thank you very much, Al. And hello, ladies and gentlemen. I want to thank you for agreeing to join us on this telephone call today and through this telephone

call to speak to the people in your own State and throughout the United States.

One of the things that we are determined to do here in Washington is open the Government to you and never let people forget, who are here making decisions, that you and lives are at stake and that these matters that we discuss and vote upon here really do affect real people out in our country.

So with that, let me just now go from one person to the next and let each of you say something about how this family and medical leave act might affect your life in the future or could have affected your life in the past or the fact that we didn't have it affected you. And I'd like to start with someone whose situation I'm personally familiar with, Kathy Censullo from New Hampshire. Kathy, are you there?

Ms. Censullo. Yes, I am.

The President. Would you talk to the other folks and to the people who are listening to us all over the country?

Ms. Censullo. Yes, back in 1989, when my son, Anthony, was born, he was born with half of his heart missing. And my husband and I saw our places with our son, as do all Americans. And while we were down at Boston Children's Hospital, my husband was given the ultimatum to return to work immediately. And he chose to stay with our son for a short period of time until he was breathing on his own. And he was told at that time that it would be better to suffer one loss than two. And when he asked what that meant, he was told that the second loss could possibly be his job and that he'd better learn to separate his personal problems from his business obligations. And at that point, they sent us a telegram firing my husband from his job. We not only lost our income, we lost our home and for the past 3 years had quite a bit of financial devastation. But we have our son. He's come through three open heart surgeries and is still with us, as you can hear. So we're quite happy.

The President. Thank you very much. He sounds great. And I hope that no other parents will ever have to make the decision that you did after this bill becomes law.

Ms. Censullo. Well, I feel that it will become law, and I feel it should have become law the past two times that it was vetoed.

The American public wants it. Both Houses want it. And I don't see any reason why it shouldn't be in law. It's only going to protect people. It's going to help people, and it's not going to hurt anybody.

The President. Thank you very much.

Ms. Censullo. Thank you for having me.

The President. Good luck to you. Your son sounds great.

Ms. Censullo. Oh, he's doing great. He's doing phenomenal.

The President. I'd like to now go to someone that Vice President and Mrs. Gore met at the Johns Hopkins Hospital when their own son was recuperating from his accident, Mitch Philpott from Georgia. Mitch, can you hear me?

Mr. Philpott. Yes, sir, I can hear you well.

The President. Why don't you talk to us a little bit about your situation.

Mr. Philpott. Yes, sir. When Brett's seizures got bad enough and he was having 150-200 seizures a day, we were given the option for Brett to have brain surgery to stop the seizures, since medication wouldn't do it. My ex-wife asked for time off, leave to take care of Brett and to go to the surgery. And she was told she couldn't be given the time off; she had to resign. I was told I had to resign my job; I couldn't have the time off.

It was just like the lady before said, you were given a choice between being with your child or keeping a job. And there was no choice. No job was that important.

We were lucky enough to meet the Vice President and his wife. And through the campaign everybody talked about family values, and we saw that they know what family values really are. And this family leave bill will help just all kinds of families. To be going through that situation with your child is bad enough, the money part of it's bad enough, but to know that after it's all over you've got to go find a job is really tough.

The Vice President. Mitch, this is Al Gore. Let me say briefly it was great to see you and Brett and Cindy at the Faces of Hope luncheon. By coincidence, just yesterday the President asked me to go to Johns Hopkins to speak with the Democratic Members of the House at a retreat, and while the doctors and nurses that you and I got to know when our families were there at the hospital

were present, and we had a nice reunion. But it's good talking to you, and thank you for lending your voice and describing your experience in the effort to make sure this new proposal becomes law next week. Good to talk to you.

The President. Thank you, Mitch.

Mr. Philpott. Thank you, sir. We'll keep our fingers crossed, too.

The President. Thanks. I'd like to now call on Ann McGowan from California. Ann, can you hear me?

Ms. McGowan. Yes, hello.

The President. Hello. Tell us a little bit about your experience.

Ms. McGowan. Okay, my experience is a little different, because mine was with my mother-in-law. Nine years ago she moved in with us, and we had to take care of her. It was difficult finding adequate care at a price that you could afford; \$19 an hour for professional help was, you know, unheard of as far as I was concerned.

But anyway, with my job situation, as my mother-in-law's condition deteriorated, then my job situation became, because of the stress, became more difficult to deal with. So, in 1990 I, well, I took early retirement. It was not my intention to retire after 25 years, because I had planned to do another 5, but I had to stay home to take care of her. I earned less money than my husband, so that's the way the decision went.

With her, she's doing as well as can be expected for a 92-year-old lady right now. And now I have my mother with us, so we have two. So I have some experience as a caregiver.

I think the family leave bill would have been very, very helpful for me, had I been able to take off work for a period of time in order to find competent help at a price that I could have afforded. I think this will do a lot for many people in the country.

The President. Thank you very much. I'd like to now call on Eva Skubel from Connecticut. Eva, can you hear me?

Ms. Skubel. Yes, Mr. President, I can hear you. First of all I have to say, from a family perspective, your presence and Vice President Gore's presence in the White House couldn't come any sooner for families.

Our situation occurred back in 1988. My daughter was born with a rare brain disease, and her health had declined significantly back in '88. I was pregnant, had a very difficult pregnancy. And we were told that Jacinta, my daughter, would probably not make it. She was in the intensive care unit, very, very, very ill, and my husband had requested from his company 5 weeks of leave, either to help us prepare for Jacinta's funeral or hopefully get Jacinta home. And he was asked to leave his job.

We were left without an income, without health insurance benefits; we couldn't continue paying for them through COBRA. And we were devastated. And our daughter is still—requires quite a significant amount of skilled care. She's still very ill, and so without this legislation being signed into law, we have the great possibility of facing that situation again, and that's a terrifying position to be in.

So what family medical leave will mean to my family is that—and all families—that we will never, you know, we won't have to face those types of choices. There is no choice, as someone else said, you know, when you have to choose between your job and your family, you must go with your family.

It's not just a piece of legislation; it's real family support. And I thank you for recognizing families and including them in the policy, making them partners in the policy.

The President. Thank you very much. Let me just say to all of you this will just be the first of many initiatives that we hope to push that will strengthen the American family. And it will prove that we can value families again and build up the capacity of mothers and fathers to work together to bring their children up and to deal with their parents when they have the courage and the generosity to try to care for them. I really appreciate what all of you have been through.

The next person I would like to ask to speak is Carmen Maya from Illinois. Carmen, can you hear me?

Ms. Maya. Yes, I can, Mr. President. I feel like I won the lottery.

The President. Well, this is a good gamble you're involved in today.

Ms. Maya. Yes, it is.

The President. Tell us about your situation.

Ms. Maya. Well, Mr. President, I'm a single mother of three children. And during my pregnancy I was let go because—oh, I'm so nervous.

The President. You're doing fine.

Ms. Maya. I had maternity problems and I asked for—and then I delivered a special child. I was supposed to be able to return back to work, and just because I needed 12 weeks of family and medical leave, my job was no longer open for me. And it's put a lot of hardship and stress on our family. And I just can't believe in our modern society, so advanced in many ways, people still lose their jobs when they have compounding family or medical needs that keep them out of work for a short time.

The President. I just want to emphasize to everyone who's listening to this that you are a single mother with three children who wants to work and not be on public assistance.

Ms. Maya. No, I'm not; still to this day, I'm not on any kind of public assistance at all. I work part-time, and I'm going back to school. I've taken the negative part of this and turned it into a positive. I'm getting a better education now so my family won't have to go through the hardship that I've gone through.

I would like to study to become a social worker and help other people, so they don't have to go through the nightmares that I have experienced.

The President. Good for you. Well, we'll try to help you here next week.

Ms. Maya. I hope so, Mr. President.

The President. Thank you very much.

Ms. Maya. Thank you for taking time for the American family and their values.

The President. Thank you.

Is Phyllis Wisneski from Kansas on the line?

Ms. Wisneski. Yes, I am.

The President. Phyllis, tell us a little about your situation.

Ms. Wisneski. Well, I'm a single parent, too. And my son when he was 7 years old had pneumonia. He was in the hospital for about 10 days and then needed to recuperate at home for about a week. And I worked at

a smaller hospital at that point in time, and they only had 5 days of annual leave a year that you were allowed. And of course, I had to take more than that with him and lost my job at that time.

I ended up having to take three part-time jobs after that and scramble for money, try to make ends meet, and get back on top of things after he recuperated. And it was quite a hardship for some time.

The second instance I had was about 3 or 4 years ago when my mother had Alzheimer's and my father couldn't care for her anymore at home by himself. So, I did have to take time off from my job then to go down and pack all their things and move them up here to Kansas with me. Because I had a more lenient employer at that time and they did allow time off for family problems, they allowed me time off to go and move them up here. And then whenever mom was in the hospital or needed special doctors appointments or whatever, they did allow me time off for those things. So, they were very good at working with me. And it really was—I just can't even tell you the amount of difference in hardship to not add that concern of losing your job on top of the problems in the family as well.

The President. You're really the first person we talked to who knows both the bad and the good side of this. You know what it will be like when this is the law for all American families.

Ms. Wisneski. Yes, it really did take a big burden off, because I still had my son at home, plus I had my parents I was taking care of. So, I had all those responsibilities. And again, this responsibility falls on the woman more often than not. And a lot of women are single parents. And it leaves them in a very bad position if they lose their job. That's their only income. So it's a real problem.

The President. Well, I really appreciate your talking with us. And I appreciate your hanging in there with both your son and your mother and—

Ms. Wisneski. I appreciate your compassion. I'm really glad you're in the White House.

The President. Thank you. I hope I get to sign this bill next week.

Ms. Wisneski. Me, too.

The President. I'd like to now call on Brenda Iles from Louisiana. Brenda, are you on the line?

Ms. Iles. Yes, good morning, Mr. President.

The President. Good morning.

Ms. Iles. My name is Brenda Iles, and I'm from Duretta, Louisiana. And I'd like to tell you my story. On January 10th, 1985, I worked for the Sears Roebuck store here in Duretta. And my husband and I had decided that we would adopt a child after I had had health problems. And we had already had a son who was eight at the time. We put in for adoption, which took 2 years. So when I needed character references, of course, most of my time was spent with my employees, so I asked the management to give me character references. And they, you know, they readily agreed to give me the references.

It took 2 years, and when we initially received this our daughter, she weighed 5 pounds—a cold day in January—wasn't even eating properly. I walked into the Sears store and asked for time off, and they immediately told me that they were having problems, and they needed to call higher management. And when they did, he said to ask her to resign; Sears does not have to allow any time off. It's up to the discretion of the company whether or not you're allowed to be off.

And at that time, I was devastated because the day before I had just charged \$2,000 worth of baby things on my Sears account, not knowing that I was not going to have a job. When I realized that I had no choice but to be off because day care does not begin after 8 weeks. So you have to have a parent there.

And Mr. President, I do realize that these children in America need to bond with their parents. Those first weeks are critical in a child's life. And I think that that's the reason a lot of times you can see young people can take a gun to their parents' head is because they never actually had a chance to bond with them.

I don't feel like it's right in this country for a working person to have to make a decision between their family and their job, because certainly we do need both. I believe that it is—it was a punishment for me and

my family; the house that we had built, the dream home we had built for our daughter, we no longer have because we had to file bankruptcy. We had to pay all of the child's care.

We took a Government child, and I feel like the Government should pay back something to the working family. I think there should be some type of an incentive to get more working people to adopt. Maybe America could have some type of a tax credit to allow that person to adopt; or maybe it could be some way that the redtape can be cut out of adoption to make it easier for people to adopt.

I just feel like it was a punishment when we adopted our daughter, who is 8 years old now and doing very well. And we just decided that if we had to live in a tent, which we almost did, that we would just be together. And so I'm just grateful that you do realize the necessity of passing this bill, because it will not be just automatically handed to a working person by an employer. And I just thank you very much for giving me this opportunity, Mr. President.

The Vice President. Thank you, Brenda. This is Al Gore. Let me say that those who have worked on this legislation in the Congress included adoption, along with the birth of a child and the illness of a family member, for exactly the kinds of reasons you have brought to life in your statement here. And bless you for finding room in your heart and in your family for this little girl. It's so good that she's doing so great. Good luck to you.

Ms. Iles. Thank you very much.

The President. And I also agree with you that we should do what we can to encourage more adoptions. We'll be talking more about that later.

Now we're going to Pennsylvania to Joann Mapp. Joann, are you on the line?

Ms. Mapp. Yes, I am.

The President. Could you tell us a little about your story?

Ms. Mapp. Okay. I'm a single parent, and I work in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. I have a girl and a boy twin. They're 5 years of age. When my daughter was 2, she was hospitalized for salmonella poisoning, and I had to take off from my job to stay in the hospital with her and care for her. And again, she

got sick a year later, and she had hepatitis, which took me home again to stay with her and care for her.

But unlike your other callers, my daughter's sickness was short-term. But if it had been a long-term sickness and I didn't have time where I could stay home with her, your bill would be a blessing, because then I would be allowed to stay there and care for my child and make sure that she's taken care of and recuperating properly. And just being there with her is a blessing.

Those other parents, I sympathize with them losing their jobs. But fortunately, I didn't lose mine. And this bill being passed would ensure that I won't lose my job because I have their security behind the bill, giving me the time to take off to care for my child when she's sick. This is not only for single parents. It's for married couples and adoptive parents and everything. If you could pass this bill, it would just be a blessing.

The President. Thank you so much.

Ms. Mapp. And thank you for allowing me to speak and represent the people in Pennsylvania.

The President. Thank you. I'd like now to call on Linda and Rudy Fernandez in Massachusetts.

Can you hear me? Is that your family with you?

Coworker. Yes, it's just my employees.

The President. Your supporters?

Coworker. My coworkers.

The President. Your coworkers? I thought it might have been your triplets.

Coworker. No, my twins are here, though. My twins are with me here.

The President. Go ahead.

Mrs. Fernandez. Good morning, Mr. President. This is Linda and Rudy. We're the ones with the triplets.

The President. Oh, great.

Mrs. Fernandez. But we do want to say thank you for all of your wonderful help in getting this bill passed and for the help that you have received from Senator Kennedy's office, from Senator Dodd, Senator Coats, all of those people that were so wonderful to us when we testified.

He began working on the family leave bill even before we needed it, when I was a social worker with a child protection agency and

realized that some of the child neglect cases that were coming through were nothing more than a situation where the parent needed to take their child for care but could not do it because they couldn't get off of work. And we didn't realize at that time that we were going to need the bill ourselves. But years ago when our triplets were born, my leave policy wasn't sufficient enough to have them up and ready to go to day care.

When my job situation came that I had to make a decision to go to work or to give up my job, and my husband's company didn't have a family leave policy. And even though he saved up vacation for it, they denied him the vacation. I was in the hospital, unable to make medical decisions, and he was not available to make them because his company would not give him the time off.

Mr. Fernandez. Which at that time was—good morning, Mr. President.

The President. Good morning, Rudy.

Mr. Fernandez. At that time, the only policy they had was for women on maternity leave, but it was the shortest time they could possibly have—for the husband. Of course, with the triplets, the husband has to be involved. There's just no way one person could do it by themselves.

Mrs. Fernandez. So, eventually, what happened was that even though my husband asked for vacation time when the boys came home, he was going to work every day and staying up all night to help care for them. And eventually, he lost his job over it. We were saving up to buy a house. And, of course, once we lost the job, we had medical bills to pay, because we lost our benefits. What we've saved for the American dream now has just been used to pay bills. And now we don't know if we'll even be able to achieve the American dream.

I think this bill is very necessary. And one of the things I would say is, people who think it won't happen to them, it can happen to you. We never expected that we would need it. And I know that there are other couples out there that are in similar situations. And they need it, and I hope that we can get it through for them.

The President. Thank you so much. How are your kids doing?

Mrs. Fernandez. We're trying to keep them from cutting you off the phone.

The President. Well, they might become national celebrities if they did that. [Laughter]

Mrs. Fernandez. Can you say "hi"?

Mr. Fernandez. Can you say "hi," guys?

Children. No.

The President. [Laughter] That's probably good, too. Thank you very much, and good luck to you.

Our last participant is Mr. James Callor from Utah. James, are you on the line?

Mr. Callor. Yes, sir.

The President. Could you tell the people who are listening to us all over the country about your situation, your story?

Mr. Callor. Okay. On March the 13th, in 1980, my little girl, Jamie Anne, they found cancer on her; it was a neuroblastoma tumor. They found it up at the Primary Children Hospital in Salt Lake. And they done the surgery, and we brought her home. She was doing good. And then—I'm jumping around because I'm nervous.

The President. You're doing fine. Just relax and tell the people your story.

Mr. Callor. All right, in 1982, July the first is when she died, and a week prior, I asked the company that I was working for—and I had sick leave; I had vacation; I had the whole 9 yards, but I still felt that the company could have let me off, which I didn't care if I didn't get paid. I just wanted the time off, which I took the time anyway.

But to get back to what we were talking about—anyway, she passed away. And my deal is like when you go to a company and you ask them something and, I mean, these people never had no heart. And that's all I told the superintendent. I says, I hope one day something happens. And I didn't mean it, but I just told him, I hope one day if something happens, your boss will say like what you told me. And I didn't lose my job, but I lost my little girl.

The President. Thank you for telling us that.

Mr. Callor. And if you need any assistance or whatever, I'd be more than glad to come over there, because I could tell you from base one, right up to the time of her death. Maybe we could get—

The President. Bless you. Just telling it today will help very much.

Mr. Callor. Okay.

The President. Ladies and gentlemen, I know I speak for Vice President Gore when I thank all of you for your courage and your support on behalf of your own children and your own families and working families all across this country. We believe that next week, the Congress and the leaders who have worked on this in both parties will help our Nation join the 72 other countries who already have family and medical leave. And if it happens, it will be because of people like you and for people like you.

I think a lot of you said this, but I just want to close with this: It's easy for people to talk about family values, but it's also important for us to value families. And your Government is going to be given a chance to value the American family next week. We hope and pray they'll do it. And if it does happen, you all can claim a lot of the credit.

Thank you so much for being with us today, and have a wonderful time. And keep those kids making that good noise. I like to hear it.

Bless you all. Goodbye.

NOTE: The teleconference began at 11:41 a.m., and the President spoke from the Oval Office at the White House.

The President's News Conference

January 29, 1993

Gays in the Military

The President. Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. I'm sorry, we had a last-minute delay occasioned by another issue, not this one.

The debate over whether to lift the ban on homosexuals in the military has, to put it mildly, sparked a great deal of interest over the last few days. Today, as you know, I have reached an agreement, at least with Senator Nunn and Senator Mitchell, about how we will proceed in the next few days. But first I would like to explain what I believe about this issue and why, and what I have decided to do after a long conversation, and a very

good one, with the Joint Chiefs of Staff and discussions with several Members of Congress.

The issue is not whether there should be homosexuals in the military. Everyone concedes that there are. The issue is whether men and women, who can and have served with real distinction, should be excluded from military service solely on the basis of their status. And I believe they should not.

The principle on which I base this position is this: I believe that American citizens who want to serve their country should be able to do so unless their conduct disqualifies them from doing so. Military life is fundamentally different from civilian society; it necessarily has a different and stricter code of conduct, even a different code of justice. Nonetheless, individuals who are prepared to accept all necessary restrictions on their behavior, many of which would be intolerable in civilian society, should be able to serve their country honorably and well.

I have asked the Secretary of Defense to submit by July the 15th a draft Executive order after full consultation with military and congressional leaders and concerned individuals outside of the Government, which would end the present policy of the exclusion from military service solely on the basis of sexual orientation and at the same time establish rigorous standards regarding sexual conduct to be applied to all military personnel.

This draft order will be accompanied by a study conducted during the next 6 months on the real, practical problems that would be involved in this revision of policy, so that we will have a practical, realistic approach consistent with the high standards of combat effectiveness and unit cohesion that our armed services must maintain.

I agree with the Joint Chiefs that the highest standards of conduct must be required. The change cannot and should not be accomplished overnight. It does require extensive consultation with the Joint Chiefs, experts in the Congress and in the legal community, joined by my administration and others. We've consulted closely to date and will do so in the future. During that process, interim measures will be placed into effect which, I hope, again, sharpen the focus of this debate. The Joint Chiefs of Staff have agreed

to remove the question regarding one's sexual orientation from future versions of the enlistment application, and it will not be asked in the interim.

We also all agree that a very high standard of conduct can and must be applied. So the single area of disagreement is this: Should someone be able to serve their country in uniform if they say they are homosexuals, but they do nothing which violates the code of conduct or undermines unit cohesion or morale, apart from that statement? That is what all the furor of the last few days has been about. And the practical and not insignificant issues raised by that issue are what will be studied in the next 6 months.

Through this period ending July 15th, the Department of Justice will seek continuances in pending court cases involving reinstatement. And administrative separation under current Department of Defense policies based on status alone will be stayed pending completion of this review. The final discharge in cases based only on status will be suspended until the President has an opportunity to review and act upon the final recommendations of the Secretary of Defense with respect to the current policy. In the meantime, a member whose discharge has been suspended by the Attorney General will be separated from active duty and placed in standby reserve until the final report of the Secretary of Defense and the final action of the President. This is the agreement that I have reached with Senator Nunn and Senator Mitchell.

During this review process, I will work with the Congress. And I believe the compromise announced today by the Senators and by me shows that we can work together to end the gridlock that has plagued our city for too long.

This compromise is not everything I would have hoped for or everything that I have stood for, but it is plainly a substantial step in the right direction. And it will allow us to move forward on other terribly important issues affecting far more Americans.

My administration came to this city with a mission to bring critical issues of reform and renewal and economic revitalization to the public debate, issues that are central to the lives of all Americans. We are working

on an economic reform agenda that will begin with an address to the joint session of Congress on February 17th. In the coming months the White House Task Force on Health Care, chaired by the First Lady, will complete work on a comprehensive health care reform proposal to be submitted to Congress within 100 days of the commencement of this administration. We will be designing a system of national service to begin a season of service in which our Nation's unmet needs are addressed and we provide more young people the opportunity to go to college. We will be proposing comprehensive welfare reform legislation and other important initiatives.

I applaud the work that has been done in the last 2 or 3 days by Senator Nunn, Senator Mitchell, and others to enable us to move forward on a principle that is important to me without shutting the Government down and running the risk of not even addressing the family and medical leave issue, which is so important to America's families, before Congress goes into its recess. I am looking forward to getting on with this issue over the next 6 months and with these other issues which were so central to the campaign and, far more importantly, are so important to the lives of all the American people.

Q. Mr. President, yesterday a Federal court in California said that the military ban on homosexuals was unconstitutional. Will you direct the Navy and the Justice Department not to appeal that decision? And how does that ruling strengthen your hand in this case?

The President. Well, it makes one point. I think it strengthens my hand, if you will, in two ways. One, I agree with the principle embodied in the case. As I understand it—I have not read the opinion—but as I understand it, the opinion draws the distinction that I seek to draw between conduct and status. And secondly, it makes the practical point I have been making all along, which is that there is not insignificant chance that this matter would ultimately be resolved in the courts in a way that would open admission into the military without the opportunity to deal with this whole range of practical issues, which everyone who has ever thought about it or talked it through concedes are

there. So I think it can—it strengthens my hand on the principle as well as on the process.

Q. Mr. President, there's a glass of water there, by the way, while I ask the question. Do you think, since you promised during the campaign—your literature put out a very clear statement: lift the ban on homosexuals in the military immediately—do you think you didn't think through these practical problems? What have you learned from this experience in dealing with powerful members of the Senate and the Joint Chiefs? And how much of a problem is this for you to accept a compromise which doesn't meet your real goals?

The President. Well, I haven't given up on my real goals. I think this is a dramatic step forward. Normally, in the history of civil rights advancements, Presidents have not necessarily been in the forefront in the beginning. So I think the fact that we actually have the Joint Chiefs of Staff agreeing that it's time to take this question off the enlistment form, that there ought to be a serious examination of how this would be done, even though they haven't agreed that it should be done; that the Senate, if they vote for the motion advocated by Senators Nunn and Mitchell, will agree; Senators who don't agree that the policy should be changed are agreeing that we ought to have a chance to work through this for 6 months and persuade them of that, I think, is very, very significant.

Now, I would remind you that any President's Executive order can be overturned by an act of Congress. The President can then veto the act of Congress and try to have his veto sustained if the act stands on its own as a simple issue that could always be vetoed. But I always knew that there was a chance that Congress would disagree with my position. I can only tell you that I still think I'm right; I feel comfortable about the way we have done this; and I'm going to maintain the commitment that I have.

Q. But do you think that you hadn't examined the practical problems—

Q. Sir, I just wonder, do you think in retrospect that—obviously, you didn't intend the first week—I'm sorry, you want to—

The President. No, I had always planned to allow some period of time during which

policies would be developed to deal with what I think are the significant practical problems. This, in effect, may reverse the process over what I intended to do, but there has to be a time in which these issues, these practical issues are developed and policies are developed to deal with them.

Q. Obviously, you didn't intend the first week of your administration, given your promise to have the laser focus on the economy, to be seen around the country as military gay rights week. I wonder if in retrospect you think you could have done things differently to have avoided that happening?

The President. I don't know how I could have done that. The Joint Chiefs asked for a meeting about a number of issues, in which this was only one. We spent a lot of time talking about other things. This issue was not put forward in this context by me; it was put forward by those in the United States Senate who sought to make it an issue early on. And I don't know how I could have stopped them from doing that.

Q. You don't think that in making the promise and then in promising to follow through on it early that you might have given rise to this, do you, sir?

The President. Well, I think it was pretty clear to me that we were talking about some sort of 6-month process days and days ago. And the people who wanted it debated now were not deterred by that, and probably a lot of them won't be deterred by the agreement announced today. I think that we must—they have the perfect right to do this. But the timing of this whole issue was clearly forced by the people in the Senate who were opposed to any change of the policy no matter what the facts are. And I think that was their right to do, but they control the timing of this, not me.

Q. Two questions. First of all, just to make sure that we're clear on this: July 15th this happens, period, regardless of what comes out at these hearings, is that correct? The ban will be issued, or will be lifted, rather?

The President. That is my position. My position is that I still embrace the principle, and I think it should be done. The position of those who are opposed to me is that they think that the problems will be so overwhelming everybody with good sense will

change their position. I don't expect to do that.

Q. So you definitely expect to do it. And secondly—

The President. I don't expect to change my position, no.

Q. What do you think is going to happen in the military? There have been all sorts of dire predictions of violence, of mass comings-out, whatever. What do you think the impact of this is going to be, practically?

The President. For one thing, I think if you look at the last 10 years of experience here, according to the reports we have, this country spent \$500 million in tax dollars to separate something under 16,500 homosexuals from the service and has dealt with complaints, at least, of sexual abuse, heterosexual abuse, largely against women, far greater volumes. But during this period, we have plainly had the best educated, best trained, most cohesive military force in the history of the United States. And everybody, ask anybody, and the Joint Chiefs will tell you that.

They agreed that we should stop asking the question. This single thing that is dividing people on this debate, I want to make it very clear that this is a very narrow issue. It is whether a person, in the absence of any other disqualifying conduct, can simply say that he or she is homosexual and stay in the service. I do not expect that to spark this kind of problem. And I certainly think in the next 6 months, as people start to work it through and talk it through, a lot of legitimate, practical issues will be raised and dealt with in a more rational environment that is less charged. That is certainly what I hope will happen.

Thank you.

Q. Want to tell us what the other problem was you were working on, Mr. President, on the Middle East, sir?

The President. No, tomorrow or the next day.

NOTE: The President's first news conference began at 1:44 p.m. in the Briefing Room at the White House.

Memorandum on Ending Discrimination in the Armed Forces

January 29, 1993

Memorandum for the Secretary of Defense

*Subject: Ending Discrimination on the Basis
of Sexual Orientation in the Armed Forces*

I hereby direct you to submit to me prior to July 15, 1993, a draft of an Executive order ending discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation in determining who may serve in the Armed Forces of the United States. The draft of the Executive order should be accompanied by the results of a study to be conducted over the next six months on how this revision in policy would be carried out in a manner that is practical, realistic, and consistent with the high standards of combat effectiveness and unit cohesion our Armed Forces must maintain.

In preparing the draft, I direct you to consult fully with the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the military services, with other Departments affected by the order, with the Congress, and with concerned individuals and organizations outside the executive branch.

William J. Clinton

Nomination of John A. Rollwagen To Be Deputy Secretary of Commerce

January 29, 1993

The President today nominated John A. Rollwagen, the head of the world's largest manufacturer of supercomputers, to be the Deputy Secretary of Commerce. Rollwagen is the chairman and CEO of Cray Research, Inc.

"The Department of Commerce will play a leading role in the development of a high skill, high wage economy," President Clinton said. "Having presided over a high skill, high wage corporation for 15 years, John Rollwagen can help us bring this about. As a proven CEO of a high technology company, Rollwagen is an innovative thinker and highly respected manager. He combines business savvy, international experience, and high technology knowledge. I'm convinced that he is the best choice to work together with Sec-

retary Ron Brown to make the Commerce Department a powerful part of our administration's work of restoring the competitiveness of American business," said the President.

"In talking with leaders in the high tech industry," said Secretary Brown, "two things kept coming up. The first was the sense that this Department has the potential to facilitate an explosion of new job opportunities in the areas of high technology and telecommunications. The second thing that kept coming up was John Rollwagen's name. I'm thrilled that John has agreed to serve in this administration, and I'm thrilled that we have our first choice," said Brown.

Rollwagen, 52, has been president of Cray Research since 1977, and chief executive officer since 1980. He joined the company in 1975 as vice president of finance and led a successful campaign to capitalize the company as it moved into commercial production. His other business affiliations include memberships on the boards of directors for Apple Computer, Inc., Dayton-Hudson Corp., and Minnesota Public Radio. In 1987, Rollwagen was appointed by President Reagan to the Advisory Committee for Trade Negotiations. President Bush reappointed him to the position in 1990.

Rollwagen earned a master's degree from Harvard Business School in 1964 and an electrical engineering degree from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1962.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

January 23

In the morning, the President had telephone conversations with President Boris Yeltsin of Russia and Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin of Israel.

The President later met with Robert Rubin, Chairman, National Economic Council.

January 25

In the morning, the President met at the White House with Thomas F. McLarty, Chief of Staff to the President; Anthony Lake, Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs; Samuel Berger, Deputy Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs; and members of the CIA briefing staff.

January 26

The President met at the White House with the Vice President, Thomas F. McLarty, Anthony Lake, Samuel Berger, and members of the CIA briefing staff.

January 27

The President met at the White House with:

- the Vice President, Thomas F. McLarty, Anthony Lake, Samuel Berger, and members of the CIA briefing staff;
- Democratic congressional leaders.

January 28

In the morning, the President met at the White House with:

- the Vice President, Thomas F. McLarty, Anthony Lake, Samuel Berger, and members of the CIA briefing staff;
- Alan Greenspan, Federal Reserve Chairman; Secretary of the Treasury Lloyd Bentsen; and Robert Rubin, Chairman, National Economic Council.

Later in the morning, the President and Hillary Clinton attended funeral services at the Washington National Cathedral for Justice Thurgood Marshall.

- In the afternoon, the President met with:
- Susan Maxman, president, American Institute of Architects, and Kevin Roche, recipient of the 1993 Medal of the American Institute of Architects;
 - Richard English, a participant in the Make a Wish Foundation, and his family;

- the President's Task Force on National Health Care Reform.

January 29

The President met at the White House with:

- the Vice President, Thomas F. McLarty, Anthony Lake, Samuel Berger, and members of the CIA briefing staff;
- the Vice President and Sen. George J. Mitchell;
- economic advisers.

**Nominations
Submitted to the Senate**

The following list does not include promotions of members of the Uniformed Services, nominations to the Service Academies, or nominations of Foreign Service officers.

Submitted January 25

John Howard Gibbons, of Virginia, to be Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy, vice D. Allan Bromley, resigned.

Withdrawn January 26

Zoe Baird, of Connecticut, to be Attorney General, which was sent to the Senate on January 20, 1993.

Submitted January 28

Lloyd Bentsen, of Texas, to be U.S. Governor of the International Monetary Fund for a term of 5 years; U.S. Governor of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development for a term of 5 years; U.S. Governor of the Inter-American Development Bank for a term of 5 years; U.S. Governor of the African Development Bank for a term of 5 years; U.S. Governor of the Asian Development

Bank; U.S. Governor of the African Development Fund; and U.S. Governor of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

Advance test of the President's remarks at a meeting of the Health Care Working Group

Released January 26

List of participants in the President's meeting with the bipartisan congressional leadership

**Checklist
of White House Press Releases**

The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

Released January 25

List of participants in the economic policy meeting

**Acts Approved
by the President**

NOTE: No acts approved by the President were received by the Office of the Federal Register during the period covered by this issue.