

foreign policy responsibilities of the President. But one of the most interesting things that happened during the last week is that every world leader with whom I met at some point during the conversation said that America seems to be on the move again, that it's exciting to see so much happening here.

I just want to say on behalf of all of you who were working last night, who missed the White House correspondents' dinner, I'll give you a list of my jokes on the way out—[laughter]—but you won't have to endure them again.

We are looking forward, the Vice President and I and all of our family, to working with you as we complete this work. This can be a historic year for this country. You acted with unbelievable dispatch. I don't think that a budget resolution has ever been passed so quickly and one has ever been this comprehensive and acted on this quickly. It is a wonderful beginning but is just the beginning. And let's, all of us, determine that we're not going to quit until our job is done. Let's urge the people, as I said, in the Senate to join hands with us and move forward quickly now. And let's stay in touch with the folks back home and tell them what we're really doing is giving the Government back to them.

Thank you very much, and God bless you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:55 a.m. in the East Room at the White House.

Remarks on the Retirement of Supreme Court Justice Byron R. White and an Exchange With Reporters

March 19, 1993

The President. Let me say, as all of you know, I received a letter not long ago from Justice White expressing his intention to resign from the Court at the end of this term and saying that he wanted to give me this much notice so that hopefully I could announce my intention to nominate someone and all the hearings could be concluded in time to really prepare someone to serve at the beginning of the October term of the Court.

I called Justice White just a few moments ago and had a fine conversation with him. I've known him for nearly 20 years, and I thanked him for his service to our country. He's had a truly remarkable life. And I appreciate the fact that he cared enough about the Court as an institution to offer me a significant period of time to deliberate and still to have plenty of time to have a nominee considered by the Senate and then confirmed well in advance of the beginning of the Court's next term.

So I will begin work on this tomorrow in earnest. And I will attempt to be faithful to my Constitutional duties and appoint a truly outstanding American in a timely fashion.

Potential Supreme Court Nominees

Q. —you once mentioned Governor Cuomo before.

The President. I don't want to get into personalities now. This is Mr. Justice White's day. And as I said, I never will forget sitting in the Supreme Court as a young attorney general and having had him already tell me that the quality of representation by the States was pretty poor. And then I had worked very hard with a lawyer from my State who was making the argument, and he sent me a note, which I still have in my personal files 16 years later, saying that we were doing better. So that's what I'm going to try to do every day.

Q. Do you have a long list of possible nominees?

The President. No. The list may get longer; it may get shorter. I did not anticipate having the opportunity to make an appointment at this early stage, so we don't have a big bank of potential nominees. I'll go to work on it tomorrow. I don't want to discuss any individuals at this point. I will do my best to pick a truly outstanding person just as soon as I can.

Bosnia

Q. —is to get people out of Bosnia. Are you going to be able to comply with that request?

The President. President Mitterrand and I talked the other day, and he told me he

was going to give some helicopters, which, as you know, he's done. And this morning was the first I have been informed of that. So we're going to discuss that today and make a decision.

Abortion

Q. Is abortion a litmus test for a Supreme Court nominee? Is that the whole issue?

The President. Now, the question as you ask it contains a thousand questions. And I wouldn't say no, and a thousand questions no. Do I believe that there is a constitutional right to privacy? Yes, I do.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:55 a.m. on the South Lawn at the White House upon departure for Atlanta, GA. In his remarks, he referred to President François Mitterrand of France.

Statement on the Retirement of Supreme Court Justice Byron R. White

March 19, 1993

This morning I received a letter from Justice Byron White informing me that he intends to retire at the end of the current Supreme Court term.

He is a living example of the American dream fulfilled. He came from humble beginnings, was a star college and professional athlete, a Rhodes scholar, a prominent private attorney, and Deputy Attorney General at one of the most important times in our history before joining the Court in 1962. In his 31 years on the Supreme Court, Justice White served his country and our Constitution well. We are all more fortunate that he devoted the great portion of his life to public service.

Announcement of Nomination for Four Sub-Cabinet Posts

March 19, 1993

President Clinton announced today his choices for four senior positions at the Departments of Veterans Affairs, State, and Housing and Urban Development. He ex-

pressed his intention to nominate the following:

Jerry Bowen, Director, National Cemetery Systems, Department of Veterans Affairs;

Mark Catlett, Assistant Secretary for Finance and Information Resources Management, Department of Veterans Affairs;

Daniel Tarullo, Assistant Secretary for Economic and Business Affairs, Department of State; and

Susan Gaffney, Inspector General, Department of Housing and Urban Development.

"I am very pleased with the pace of the nominations that we have been making," said the President. "This week alone, I have named more than 30 people to fill important positions in the day-to-day operations of the Federal Government," he added.

NOTE: Biographies of the nominees were made available by the Office of the Press Secretary.

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.

March 15

The White House announced that Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa will visit the White House on April 16 for a meeting and working lunch.

March 16

In the morning, the President met with congressional leaders and later with Senators from western States.

March 17

In the morning, the President met with the governing board of the Electronics Industry Association.

In the afternoon, the President and Prime Minister Albert Reynolds of Ireland attended