

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

the Friends of Ireland St. Patrick's Day lunch at the Capitol.

The President announced his approval for the following departmental appointments at the Department of the Interior: Brooks Yeager, Director of Program Analysis; Kevin Sweeny, Director of Communications; and Thomas Williams, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Fish, Wildlife, and Parks.

The President announced his intention to nominate six sub-Cabinet officials:

Eugene Branstool, Assistant Secretary of Agriculture for Marketing and Inspection Services;

Lionel Skipwith Johns, Associate Director for Technology, Office of Science and Technology Policy;

Daniel Beard, Commissioner, Bureau of Reclamation, Department of the Interior;

Mary Lou Keener, General Counsel, Department of Veterans Affairs;

Edward Scott, Assistant Secretary of Veterans Affairs for Congressional Affairs; and

Joe Shuldiner, Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development for Public and Indian Housing.

### **March 18**

In the morning, the President met with Democratic Senators. Later, he went to the Department of the Treasury where he was given a brief tour.

In the afternoon, the President had lunch with the Vice President and afterwards met with the Black Publishers Association.

In the late afternoon, the President met with the President of the Commission of the European Communities, Jacques Delors, and then with recipients of the White House News Photographers Association awards.

In the evening, the President attended the Radio and Television Correspondents Association dinner at the Washington Hilton.

The White House announced that the President has invited the President of the European Council, Prime Minister Poul Nyrup Rasmussen of Denmark, and the President of the Commission of the European Communities, Jacques Delors, to the White House for the biannual Presidential

consultations between the European Community and the United States on May 7.

### **March 19**

In the morning, the President traveled to Atlanta, GA, where he visited the Downtown Child Development Center and addressed members of the business community at the Apparel Mart, and returned to Washington, DC, in the evening.

---

### **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 March 15**

Strobe Talbott, of Ohio, to be Ambassador at Large and Special Adviser to the Secretary of State on the New Independent States.

Harriet C. Babbitt, of Arizona, to be the Permanent Representative of the United States of America to the Organization of American States, with the rank of Ambassador.

Stephen A. Oxman, of New Jersey, to be an Assistant Secretary of State, vice Thomas Michael Tolliver Niles, resigned.

#### **Submitted March 16**

Joan E. Spero, of New York, to be Under Secretary of State for Economic and Agricultural Affairs, vice Robert B. Zoellick.

James Lee Witt, of Arkansas, to be Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, vice Wallace Elmer Stickney, resigned.