I have to tell you, I have not had any personal criticism of anyone for their opposition to my plans. The thing that I thought was wrong about what Senator Shelby did was that he launched his criticism in a very personal way against the Vice President after the television cameras showed up, and I thought that was wrong. I thought it was insensitive to a new Vice President and President. I didn't like that.

I have tried to have, and I want to have, a good relationship with Senator Shelby. I have a very good relationship with several Republican Senators who rarely vote with me. But there are all kinds of other issues. This is not the end of the world. This economic plan—after we finish this, we've got to pass national service, which is being debated, which was one of the heartland provisions of my campaign. We've got to deal with the health care crisis, and we're going to have some bipartisan support on that. We've got to take up a crime bill in an environment which is very troubling in America today. We've got a whole lot of other fish to fry for the American people. And I do not want to have any kind of bad relationship with any Member of Congress I can avoid. So I want to have a good relationship with Senator Shelby. And I have to tell you, that was my only personal regret. The fact that he stood up against my program is a decision for him to make. But I did not know what you just told me about that letter, and I will get it and review it and get a report back from the NASA Director.

Yes?

Unfunded Federal Mandates

Q. Mr. President, one of the questions that we raised earlier—being from Montgomery, we're very sensitive to the fact that over the years the Federal Government has mandated programs and then has asked the States to pay more along the way, something that you can relate to from your days in Arkansas. Is there any encouragement from your administration toward the new administration of Governor Folsom——

The President. Absolutely. Absolutely. I just talked to the National Association of Counties this week, and I reiterated what I said in my 3-hour work session with the Governors earlier this year. We are going to do everything we can to stop this practice of nonfunded mandates. One of the charges I gave the Vice President when he undertook this reinventing Government project, which I think will be very exciting to you and to the people of Alabama when we recommend some pretty fundamental changes in the way the Federal Government operates, is to try to get out of this business of rulemaking against the States and the local governments that cost money without paying for it.

Now, I have to say, I want to give just this little window here. There are times when the Congress passes laws that the President is not in a position to veto. For example, sometimes the Congress will put a little mandate in a huge budget bill that you simply cannot veto, because you have to let the agencies go forward. But the Congress, the Democrats who have been involved in this in the past clearly know of my position on this and my strong conviction. I think it's wrong.

I'll take one last question. Go ahead.

Q. Mr. President, I've been told I can't return to Alabama until I ask you: Who's going to win the next Alabama and Arkansas game?

The President. Well, all I can say is after I went to the last one I predicted that Alabama would win the national championship. And I hope we'll be more competitive next year. I think we probably will be.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 4:55 p.m. in the Roosevelt Room at the White House.

Remarks Prior to Discussions With President Jean-Bertrand Aristide of Haiti and an Exchange With Reporters

July 22, 1993

The President. Let me make a brief statement, and then I can answer some questions.

First of all, it's a good pleasure for me to have President Aristide back here in the White House. I want to commend him on the progress that has been made and the

courage he showed in signing the Governor's Island agreement which set a process and a timetable for his return as President of Haiti by October 30th and for the parliamentary agreement. We're here to talk about what our next steps are.

I want to compliment, again, the United Nations envoy, Mr. Caputo, and our Ambassador, Mr. Pezzulo, for the wonderful work they have done in trying to restore democracy and Father Aristide to the Presidency. So we're going to have a good meeting this morning and talk about the next steps, naming the Prime Minister, getting the international police force in place, and going forward. I'm excited about this process. It's a major potential for a victory for democracy.

Haiti

Q. Is President Aristide ready to accept 300 American troops to train his military force and carry out all the provisions of the agreement?

President Aristide. We are doing our best to do that and also to have what we call the four points of—[*inaudible*]—plan: professionalization of the army, a new police force, reform of the judicial system, and the economic package for having something for every single citizen of the country.

Economic Program

Q. Mr. President, on the budget, Senator Boren wants more cuts; Congressman Rangel wants more taxes for more investment programs. How do you bridge this kind of gap?

The President. I don't know. That's what they're working on now. Senator Boren voted with some enthusiasm for the bill when it came out of the Senate. We'll be glad to work with him. But we'll just have to see what happens.

Q. And are you leaning toward a higher gasoline tax than the 4.3 percent? There are indications from your people on the Hill that you are.

The President. Let's see what happens there in the budget process. I went up there and talked to the conferees, and I told them what I thought the principles and the guideposts ought to be, and they're working on it.

Q. How about——

The President. They may discuss a lot of different things. Let's just see what happens.

Q. Are you thinking of 5 cents, 5 cents a gallon?

Bosnia

Q. Have you given up on Bosnia?

The President. No. That's not true. Those stories are not accurate.

Q. That's the way Secretary Christopher's remarks were interpreted.

The President. I disagree that that's what they said. I realize that that's how one or two sentences were interpreted, but that's not so. We have aggressively committed ourselves to the process in Geneva. And if the Bosnian Government voluntarily signs an agreement, we have made it clear that we were prepared to participate in the enforcement of it. And we are continuing to work with the Europeans on other options. So you know what the United States believes, that an opportunity was lost shortly after Athens because our position did not prevail with the Europeans. But that is not true that we have given up on it. We are continuing to work.

NOTE: The exchange began at 9:40 a.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

Remarks at a Communications Technology Demonstration

July 22, 1993

Thank you very much. Distinguished Members of Congress, FCC Commissioners, Mrs. Graham, distinguished members of the high-tech community and communications industry who are here today, I thank all of you for coming, and I appreciate your sitting through my education here. I hope it isn't too warm. We've gotten a little bit of break in the weather. I got to send the Vice President that message over there, and it's nice to know he'll be able to stop the rains in