

I think that it's also clear that we're going to be able to do far more at lower burden than had originally been assumed in terms of providing basic coverage for the unemployed, uninsured, locking in people to some coverage even if they have some preexisting health condition or someone in their family does, and promoting some significant insurance reforms and Government reforms to simplify the administrative costs.

I think there needs to be a sort of baseline comprehensive care package that every American has access to. But I also believe the States should be left a considerable amount of freedom to experiment with whether they want to provide other services or alternative delivery networks or alternative financing systems. So I think you can look forward to seeing a fairly significant amount of State flexibility here.

It's interesting, if you go back and look at the Canadian system, they've started that in one Province. We now have a lot of States trying different things. Hawaii, for many years, has provided some health insurance to virtually all their employees, although not all children were covered. But they did more sooner than anybody else. Now you've got Washington State, you've got Minnesota with new plans, you've got Kentucky and Vermont with plans on the griddle, a lot of other things being considered. So I think we need to maintain the elbow room and the creativity of the States in solving some of these problems, but there needs to be enough of a framework so that no one fears being left out and so that there's enough systematic change to bring these cost increases down. We have got to get health care costs down closer to inflation, plus population growth, or we're never going to turn this economy around in the long run. We're spending 14 percent of our income on health care, and only one other nation in the world, Canada, is even over 9 percent of income, and they're just barely over.

So we are going to have to have some uniformity, but I want the private system to remain in place, and I want as much flexibility for the States as possible.

Mr. Wesely. Thank you, Mr. President.

[At this point, Mr. Hamilton thanked the President for participating in the program.]

The President. God bless you, Art. Thank you all, and goodbye.

NOTE: The President spoke at 5:10 p.m. in Room 459 of the Old Executive Office Building. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Statement on the Death of Matthew Ridgway

July 27, 1993

There can be no greater tribute for a patriot than to say he spent his life serving his nation. General Matthew Ridgway was such a patriot. He fought for our liberty and in opposition to tyranny through two great conflicts, World War II and the Korean conflict. Through his efforts, General Ridgway became one of our most venerated military leaders. His greatest legacy is the freedom his tireless work helped preserve and promote.

Hillary and I wish to extend our condolences to Mrs. Ridgway and the rest of his family. We all owe a debt of gratitude to Matthew Ridgway, soldier and patriot.

Proclamation 6582—40th Anniversary of the Korean Armistice

July 27, 1993

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

The friendship between the United States and South Korea is one formed in blood, for our troops fought shoulder to shoulder in defense of freedom. On the 40th anniversary of the signing of the Korean Armistice, it is appropriate that we honor those who fell in defense of freedom and human dignity and that we strive to create a new vision of how

we as a community of neighbors can live in peace in the post-Cold War era.

When President Truman sent American troops to Korea's defense 43 years ago, he said he aimed to prove that "Free men under God can build a community of neighbors working together for the good of all." The joint efforts of the United States and South Korea since then have benefited the citizens of our two countries and the peoples of the Asian Pacific region. Our relationship has made that region more secure, more prosperous, and more free.

I join with all Americans in paying tribute to those who served in the Korean War and in remembering those who died in that conflict. We must not forget the lessons we learned—the Korean War must not be the "Forgotten War."

Veterans of Korea served America valiantly during one of the most destructive wars of this century. Their experiences remind all Americans of our great debt to those who have risked—and sometimes lost—their lives in defense of our liberty. As a Nation, we must always remember the sacrifices made by our men and women in uniform and by their families. I salute the distinguished service records of our veterans, as well as the sacrifices that they have made for America.

Now, Therefore, I, William J. Clinton, President of the United States of America, by the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby urge all Americans to observe July 27, 1993—the 40th Anniversary of the Korean Armistice—with appropriate programs and activities.

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

William J. Clinton

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 2:36 p.m., July 28, 1993]

NOTE: This proclamation was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on July 28, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on July 30.

Exchange With Reporters Prior to Discussions With Freshman Congressional Democrats

July 28, 1993

Bosnia

Q. Mr. President, are you going to send air power to Bosnia?

The President. Let me say, I saw the stories this morning. The position of the United States has long been that if the United Nations troops were attacked there, we would do our part to protect it and by making available air power. We have not yet been asked to do that. If we are asked, that's something we'll give good consideration to. But we have not been asked to do it, and I—

Q. The French did not ask you?

The President. Not yet. But we've had some conversations with them. I'm very upset by the shelling of Sarajevo. And we're going to take a look at what the situation is and what the options are. But they have not formally asked yet.

Q. Does that mean the answer could be—a request is made that the answer will be yes, sir?

The President. It means just what I said. It means that the United States has always had the public position and the private position—we've made it very clear that if the United Nations operations in Bosnia were attacked, we would be prepared to defend them with air power. And we have not been asked yet. If we are asked, that's something we will seriously consider.

Q. You certainly are expecting it, aren't you? I mean, Bosnia has been attacked and they are on the—

The President. We'll just have to see. I am going to be reviewing it in the next couple of days. I asked the Secretary of State to come home to discuss the Middle East before he goes to the Middle East. So he will be here. We'll have a chance to discuss it, and as soon as we make a decision we'll let you know.

NOTE: The exchange began at 8:34 a.m. in the State Dining Room at the White House. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.