

Federal Government,” the President said. “As CFO at Education, Don will work with Secretary Riley to ensure that the tax dollars of hardworking Americans are not wasted, but instead directed 100 percent to bettering education in America.”

NOTE: A biography of the nominee was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary.

### **Memorandum on Excused Absence for Federal Employees in Disaster Areas**

July 28, 1993

*Memorandum for the Heads of Executive Departments and Agencies*

*Subject:* Excused Absence for Employees Affected by the Flooding of the Mississippi River and Its Tributaries

I am saddened by the devastating losses caused by the flooding of the Mississippi River and its tributaries and the impact on the well-being and livelihood of our fellow Americans. Many parts of the Federal Government have been mobilized to respond to this disaster and to begin a massive effort to recover from the ravages of this flooding.

As part of this effort, I request heads of executive departments and agencies who have Federal civilian employees in the areas designated as disaster areas because of the flooding to use their discretion to excuse from duty, without charge to leave or loss of pay, any such employee who is faced with a personal emergency because of the flooding and who can be spared from his or her usual responsibilities. This policy should also be applied to any employee who is needed for emergency law enforcement, relief, or clean-up efforts authorized by Federal, State or local officials having jurisdiction.

**William J. Clinton**

NOTE: This memorandum was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on July 29.

### **Remarks on the Earned-Income Tax Credit and an Exchange With Reporters**

July 29, 1993

*The President.* I don't want them to miss the vote. [*Laughter*] This is what is known as an excused absence for the Congress. I want to say a warm welcome and a word of thanks to the Risners, the Dorseys, and the Dikemans, all of them for coming here. They're not used to being public speakers, but I think they did a fine job, don't you?

I'd also like to say a special word to Mr. Dorsey. When I was a boy, I cut lawns for a living, too, and nobody ever gave me more than I charged. You're either a better salesman, a better grass-cutter, or you had better customers. [*Laughter*]

I am so glad to have these families here today because they emphasize that a pivotal part of this economic plan is increasing the earned-income tax credit which, more than anything else we could do, will reward work and family and responsibility and make a major downpayment on welfare reform.

You heard Robin make that point. There are so many Americans in this country who want to work, who want to be independent, who want to support themselves, and who find themselves in a position of not being able to make ends meet, not being able to cover basic costs. The earned-income tax credit can help them do that. It is a terribly important part of this overall plan, which not only reduces the deficit by \$500 billion, but also does it in a fair way. Half of the reduction comes from budget cuts; four-fifths of the rest comes from taxes on the upper income people in this country, the upper 6 percent; one-fifth from taxes on families with incomes above \$30,000 and below, for couples, \$180,000.

But the most important thing of all to reward work is that this will be the first time in the history of our country when we'll be able to say that if you work 40 hours a week and you have children in your home, you will be lifted out of poverty. It is an elemental, powerful, and profound principle. It is not liberal or conservative. It should belong to no party. It ought to become part of the