

President Ramos. I brought it up at the APEC meeting itself as a concern of developing countries as well as of countries in the Asia-Pacific region. I discussed this extensively with Vice President Gore during our meeting, and I repeated it in our meeting with President Clinton.

The Philippines must be recognized as one of the first, if not the first, Asian countries that created the mechanism to implement the guidelines agreed to by most countries in the Earth summit in Rio in June 1992. And we're proud that we have this kind of a record in the international community. And we are very thankful to the United States Government for supporting many efforts on our part to improve our own Philippine environmental situation.

President Clinton. Let me just give you one specific example that President Ramos suggested, not now but in Seattle, that we look at establishing within the APEC region a technology transfer center that would accelerate the movement of technology for environmental protection and cleanup from the countries that have it to those that need to acquire it. So I think you can look forward to a time when we will really press this forward. It's very much in the interest of the United States, both environmentally and economically to do. And I really appreciate the fact that of all the APEC leaders, President Ramos was the one most insistent that we make progress on this.

Crime and the Community

Q. Mr. President, you've been talking a lot lately about children killing children. And a number of sociologists are now suggesting that not enough focus has been put on the parents who fail to supervise these children. Do you agree with that? And what can be done about it?

President Clinton. Absolutely, I agree with that. I think that the conditions you see today in a lot of the most desperate areas of our country are the result of a confluence of forces, one of which is plainly the breakdown of order within the family and the kind of direction and support that traditionally has been the province of parenthood. That's one reason, one thing.

Secondly, there has been a simultaneous breakdown of a lot of the community supports and alternatives to parental guidance that used to exist in a lot of communities. After all, there have always been children in trouble. There have always been children who had parents who were neglectful of them, even abusive of them. But in times past, there have been more alternative community supports than there are now. And one of the reasons that my speech to the Church of God in Christ got such a warm reception from the folks there is that many of them feel that they're holding back an even worse deluge, that the churches are almost the only community supports left in a lot of these neighborhoods.

The third thing, obviously, is the decline of available employment in a lot of these neighborhoods, so that a lot of the role models who would have been there, people who would have been there either in the home or in the neighborhood, are not there.

And then the fourth thing are the rise of drugs, not only as an instrument of personal abuse but also as an alternative economic system.

And then, finally, the ready availability of weapons, especially handguns and assault weapons, to reinforce an alternative economic and social order; all these things are working together. But clearly, we're going to have to have more efforts by people at the grassroots level, the churches, the community organizations, the local folks, to reinforce a sense of parental responsibility and accountability in whatever way we can.

Thank you. We have to go.

NOTE: The President's 34th news conference began at 2:30 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Bruce Lindsey, Assistant to the President and Senior Adviser.

Remarks at the National Democratic Institute Dinner

November 22, 1993

Thank you very much, Ken. And thank you, ladies and gentlemen, for that warm

welcome and for the work you do. It's a real honor for me to be here tonight among so many friends and colleagues who have worked so hard to promote democracy throughout the world. The work of NDI is well-known and highly prized, from Russia and the Baltics to Mexico, Paraguay to the African continent and many other places where you are working to breathe life into the idea of democracy. I salute you for that work.

I think the knowledge that so many Americans have of your work and the credibility it has gained in the Congress is one reason that I was able to secure, with the help of some of the people here present, a substantial increase in funding for the National Endowment for Democracy at a time when we were cutting more than half the items in the domestic and the foreign budget.

I would also like to thank you for Brian Atwood and for the fine job he's done at AID. I am delighted that tonight you're honoring two extraordinary leaders, Korean President Kim Yong-sam and Senator George Mitchell. Their lives have given meaning to the ideals which have inspired so many millions of people around the world who struggle for democracy.

President Kim's valiant efforts since his service as a young assemblyman to bring democracy to Korea are a model to aspiring democrats everywhere. He has certainly paid a price for his devotion to freedom and democracy. And all of us and all freedom-loving people everywhere in the world should honor the personal price he paid, and then the fact that, once given the chance to govern his country, he lived in office by the ideals he expressed out of office. More should do the same.

I also want to thank the NDI for honoring my good friend Senator George Mitchell whose contributions to democracy, whose work for responsive Government here at home, and whose personal integrity proved once again that politics can be an honorable profession. When I went to the meeting of the Asian-Pacific leaders in Seattle on the heels of the remarkable vote for the NAFTA treaty in the House of Representatives, and its following overwhelming support in the Senate—something, which I add, I am con-

vinced is good for democracy in Mexico and throughout Latin America—George Mitchell made sure that I did not forget that one of my missions was to espouse the cause of human rights in all the countries of the world who seek to be our full partners in moving toward the 21st century, and I thank him for that.

Not long before I came over here tonight, and after I finished the day's work, I went home to be with my daughter for a few moments. And she had a friend from school over, and they're studying for an examination around the kitchen table, the way I did so many times when I was her age. And we turned on the evening news because I wanted to see what was on about the airline strike which was settled today, and I thank the parties involved for doing that. And there was a special on, as you might imagine, about John Kennedy, since this is the 30th anniversary of his death. And it showed a lot of predictable footage, but I enjoyed watching it all the same. And the people who were commenting on the channels I watched all pointed out that everyone who was old enough to remember could tell you exactly where he or she was at that moment on that fateful Friday 30 years ago.

But the thing that I was most moved by was the comment that, at that time, 30 years ago, the American people believed in their Government and believed in their President and believed in the promise of democracy to improve the lot of the people of this country and people throughout the world. And of course, the commentator went on to point out how much more difficult it is today, not only in our country but throughout the world because of economic stagnation, because of the pressures from the middle class, because of the continuing inability of democracy to deliver on some of the deepest hopes and dreams of humankind.

I say to you tonight that if we had more people in public life like George Mitchell and President Kim, the confidence of the people of the world in democracy would go up, and the confidence of the people of the United States in who we are, what we believe in, and what we're capable of doing would increase. And so I ask you tonight, as you honor them on this fateful anniversary, to ask also

of yourselves, what can we do together to make people really believe in the cause for which these men and so many others have given so much.

Thank you, and good night.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8 p.m. at the Washington Hilton Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to Ken Wollack, president of the institute. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Statement on the House of Representatives Action on Campaign Finance Reform

November 22, 1993

Today, the House of Representatives overwhelmingly passed comprehensive campaign finance reform legislation based on my proposal earlier this year.

The public has made clear that it expects change in the way Washington works and politics is conducted. This legislation is a major step toward ensuring that Government serves the national interest and not narrow interests. It sets up a system of spending limits; it opens up the airwaves to debate; it curbs the role of PAC's; and it bans the use of soft money in Federal elections.

I congratulate the House leadership for their energetic effort to pass this difficult legislation, and I look forward to signing the strongest possible bill when it reaches my desk in its final form. All in all, this is a breakthrough for political reform and a sign that we have heard the American people.

Proclamation 6628—National Family Week, 1993 and 1994

November 22, 1993

*By the President of the United States
of America*

A Proclamation

Families are our Nation's lifeblood and strength. No matter its size or composition, it is the source of our ideals and the birthplace of our memories. Connected families in vital communities are essential to this country's future.

The common bonds of family love, sharing, and mutual support have for generations shaped the character of our society. Anchored by strong insights, deeply felt convictions, moral principles, and concern for societal improvement and well-being, families have used their devotion, creative ideals, and energies to define themselves, their communities, and the Nation.

The willing acceptance of family obligations and the unselfish shouldering of responsibilities are core components of caring families. Families encourage and foster teamwork, as well as individuality, personal sacrifice, personal attainment, and a wide range of joys and life experiences.

America has maintained its unique position in the history of nations because we have not forgotten the teachings of our forebears. We have thrived because we, their children, have remained committed to advancing the causes of liberty and justice. Even in times of national crisis, we have recalled the importance of our national family tree, always returning to the promise of its protective shade.

As families across the country gather in thanksgiving, it is particularly appropriate that we pause as a Nation to acknowledge the blessings of love and loyalty that families bring to their members and through them, to the community of America. Like our democracy, all of our families must strive to be nurturing and steady. All of our children, grandparents, mothers and fathers must know that no matter the challenges we face, we can be secure in the love and support of a family. This lesson is among our founders' most precious gifts. Fulfilling their ideal is each generation's most profound responsibility.

The Congress, by House Joint Resolution 79, has designated the week of November 21, 1993, and the week of November 20, 1994, as "National Family Week" and has authorized and requested the President to issue a proclamation in observance of these weeks.

Now, Therefore, I, William J. Clinton, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim the week of November 21, 1993, and the week of November 20, 1994, as National Family Week. I invite the