

Q. Are you going to be talking about that more in the future? Is this something we're going to hear about?

The President. Absolutely. One of the reasons I asked Dr. Elders to be the Surgeon General is because we have been involved in an effort for years to try to drive down this teen pregnancy rate. I think that the out-of-wedlock teen pregnancy rate is threatening the whole family structure of communities in this country and undermining our ability to recover as a people.

Democratic Leadership Council

Q. Have you made up with the DLC?

The President. I don't think there's anything to make up about. Breau saved my budget.

Q. He didn't vote for the Brady bill.

The President. He saved the budget. But the DLC—well, there's no political correctness test here. Nobody can agree on every issue. But the DLC endorsed the Brady bill early. The DLC was an early supporter of the Brady bill, an early supporter of family medical leave, and—

Q. You haven't been critical about them, so they've been a little critical of you.

The President. Yes, but that's why I—they said some things about the budget earlier on that I thought were not accurate. But Breau didn't; he stayed with us on it and helped us pass it. So did Lieberman. So did Steny. So did most of the leaders. But I think they were wrong, and I said that.

On the health care thing, if you go back and read the DLC's health care package, which was written by Jeremy Rosner who now works in the White House, I think we're much closer on health care than you think. I think that a lot of this stuff has been overblown. Every time one of them or one of us says, "Here's what the difference is between our two health care plans," somebody says, "Oh, they're dumping on each other again." I think that it's just an honest discussion. I predict that you will see an accommodation that will cause a health care plan to pass next year that has universal coverage and good benefits, and that's what I want.

Thank you.

NOTE: The exchange began at 11:37 a.m. at the Sheraton Washington Hotel. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

Statement on Signing the Hazard Mitigation and Relocation Assistance Act of 1993

December 3, 1993

Today I am pleased to sign into law S. 1670, the "Hazard Mitigation and Relocation Assistance Act of 1993."

The flooding that occurred in the Midwest this past summer was unprecedented in our history in scope, magnitude, and duration. The sheer number of victims, flooded homes, farms, and businesses, and the extent of damage to public facilities called for an unprecedented response from the nine affected States, local governments, volunteers, and the Federal Government—and respond they did.

Now that most of the flood waters have receded, it is time to reestablish lives disrupted by the weeks and months of rain and flooding and to rebuild property damaged by those waters. For many, rebuilding in the same place will be out of the question. And for many who want to move, relocating off the flood plain may not be possible without help.

With this legislation, my Administration and the Congress have taken an important step toward providing the help needed. This Act authorizes a greater Federal contribution toward acquiring and relocating structures damaged by floods than was available before. It provides higher ceilings on the amounts of Federal disaster funds that can be available to help flood victims move out of harm's way. And in assisting in the relocation of homes and other structures, it provides greater assurance than perhaps any other measure that the people helped will not have to suffer such damage and disruption from flooding again. It will be less costly to help the flood victims move now and reestablish their lives

than to bear the expense of repeated flooding.

I congratulate and thank the many Members of the House and Senate in both parties who worked so diligently to pass this legislation. I especially commend the leadership of Representatives Volkmer and Gephardt, Senators Harkin and Danforth, and other Members of the congressional delegations of the Midwestern States, as well as the prompt action of the leaders of the House Committee on Public Works and Transportation and the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works.

William J. Clinton

The White House,
December 3, 1993.

NOTE: S. 1670, approved December 3, was assigned Public Law No. 103-181.

Statement on the Technology Reinvestment Project

December 3, 1993

To win in the new global economy and safeguard our national security, America must invest in new technologies with both commercial and military applications. This program will help give us the edge that will keep America strong and create new jobs at the same time.

This program is designed to keep American manufacturing workers, from the engineers to the machine operators, at the top of their fields. Efficient, high-quality production using a skilled, well-equipped work force will put American products on shelves throughout the world and put Americans to work in high-paying jobs here at home.

NOTE: This statement was part of a White House announcement on naming the third group of awards in the technology reinvestment project.

Proclamation 6633—National Drunk and Drugged Driving Prevention Month, 1993

December 3, 1993

By the President of the United States

A Proclamation

The 1993 holiday season is an ideal time to ask ourselves what more can be done to prevent drunk and drugged driving—one of our Nation's most serious public health and safety problems. Each year, thousands of Americans are killed or seriously injured because of drunk and drugged drivers. During this National Drunk and Drugged Driving Prevention Month, I ask each citizen to work actively to help improve the safety of our roads and highways by pledging not to drink and drive. In addition, we must be alert to the risks of the road and make a special effort to ensure that others do the same.

As in past years, citizens across the country are participating in programs and activities to focus public attention on the prevention of driving under the influence of mind-altering substances. Public officials at all levels are sponsoring anti-drunk and anti-drugged driving legislation, appointing special task forces, and issuing proclamations; law enforcement agencies are increasing enforcement efforts; public and private organizations are holding safety campaigns, including candlelight vigils in memory of those killed due to driving catastrophes caused by drunk and drugged drivers. Just as important, citizens are sponsoring volunteer programs to provide rides home from holiday parties. These are just some of the things that each of us can do to help in the fight against drunk and drugged driving.

Despite some encouraging results in recent years from many community-based efforts to curtail drunk and drugged driving, 45 percent of all fatal motor vehicle accidents in 1992 were alcohol-related, and about 80 percent of these involved a legally intoxicated driver or pedestrian. For 1992, that meant that alcohol was a factor in approximately 17,700 traffic deaths. Drunk driving remains our number one highway safety problem, re-