

Statement on the Tentative Agreement To End the Coal Strike

December 7, 1993

I would like to commend the United Mine Workers of America and the Bituminous Coal Operations Association for coming together and producing a tentative agreement in this contentious strike.

This agreement represents good news for the coal industry, good news for its workers, and more good news for the economy as we approach the holiday season.

I applaud Mine Workers President Rich Trumka and BCOA Chief Bobby Brown for their dedication and commitment to an outcome that will support a strong and productive mining industry in America.

And I extend special thanks to former Secretary of Labor Bill Usery who was brought into this challenging mediation process at the request of Secretary of Labor Bob Reich. Bob assured me that Bill's history of stepping into and resolving tough disputes would prove to be invaluable to the negotiations. He was right.

Appointment to the Board of Trustees of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts

December 7, 1993

The President announced today that he intends to appoint Lew R. Wasserman to the Board of Trustees of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Smithsonian Institution. The Kennedy Center's 30-member Board of Trustees is responsible for the Center's maintenance and administration, including oversight of its \$75 million annual budget.

"Lew Wasserman's long and distinguished career in the entertainment industry has been truly remarkable," said the President. "Just as impressive is his commitment to public service. The Kennedy Center, one of our country's greatest artistic institutions, will benefit from his trusteeship."

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

Statement on Appointment of Assistant to the President and Deputy Chief of Staff

December 7, 1993

I've known Phil for a long time and believe that his integrity, personal qualities, and record of management success will be a genuine asset to the White House.

NOTE: This statement was part of a White House announcement naming Office of Management and Budget Deputy Director for Management Philip Lader as Assistant to the President and Deputy Chief of Staff.

Remarks on Signing the North American Free Trade Agreement Implementation Act

December 8, 1993

Thank you very much. I'm delighted to see all of you here. I thank Speaker Foley and the Republican leader, Bob Michel, for joining us today. There are so many people to thank, and the Vice President did a marvelous job. I do want to mention, if I might, just three others: Laura Tyson, the Chair of the Council of Economic Advisers; Bob Rubin, head of my national economic team; and one Republican Member of the House that wasn't mentioned, Congressman David Dreier, who went with me on a rainy day to Louisiana to campaign for NAFTA. There are many others that I might mention, but I thank all of you for what you have done.

I also can't help but note that in spite of all the rest of our efforts, there was that magic moment on Larry King, which made a lot of difference. And I thank the Vice President for that and for so much else. In the campaign, when we decided to come out for NAFTA, he was a strong supporter of that position in our personal meetings, long before we knew whether we would even be here or not.

I also would be remiss if I did not personally thank both Mickey Kantor and Mack McLarty for the work they did, especially in the closing days with the Mexican trade representatives and the Mexican Government.