

Appointment of a Member of the Permanent Committee for the Oliver Wendell Holmes Devise

March 2, 1994

The President today announced the appointment of Laura Kalman as a member of the Permanent Committee for the Oliver Wendell Holmes Devise. The Committee was established to prepare a history of the Supreme Court of the United States, to finance an annual lecture or series of lectures, and to prepare and publish a memorial volume containing the writings of Justice Holmes.

"Laura Kalman's extensive background in law and American history will be a great asset to the Committee," the President said. "I am delighted to announce her appointment."

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

Remarks on the National Performance Review and an Exchange With Reporters

March 3, 1994

The President. Good morning everybody. Please sit down. I'm sorry we're starting late, but I had to have a conversation with Prime Minister Hosokawa of Japan, and it was getting very late there, and I couldn't put it off until after this meeting. And we'll have more to say about that later in the day. I apologize, but it was unavoidable. We had to make the call.

One year ago today, I asked the Vice President to conduct a review of our entire Government, to find out how we could do more and do better with less. Six months ago, he presented his report to me and to the American people. Today, we tell the American people that we are keeping our commitment. This report is not gathering dust in a warehouse. It is still our blueprint for building a Government that gives the taxpayers real value for their hard-earned dollars.

Here's the most important reason why this report is different from earlier ones on Government reform. When Herbert Hoover finished the Hoover Commission, he went back to Stanford. When Peter Grace finished the

Grace Commission, he went back to New York City. But when the Vice President finished his report, he had to go back to his office—[laughter]—20 feet from mine—and go back to working to turn the recommendations into reality.

Throughout the Government, agencies are talking to their employees, involving their unions and improving services and cutting costs. Eighty percent of the recommendations in the Vice President's report have already been started on the way to implementation. And almost every dollar of the savings this report recommends has been built into the 1995 budget to help us make the tough budget reduction targets. I'm pleased that throughout the Government people are asking themselves how they can meet the challenges in the report: put customers first, cut redtape, empower employees to provide better services at lower cost.

Yesterday I signed performance agreements with Secretary Cisneros, Secretary Reich, Secretary Babbitt, and Ambassador Bowles of the Small Business Administration, Ambassador Roger Johnson of the General Services Administration—Administrator Roger Johnson of the General Services Administration. All these agreements set specific goals for their Departments to improve the quality and efficiency of service.

I'm pleased that Congress is also answering this challenge. Legislation to offer the early retirement incentives to Government employees whose jobs are no longer necessary has now passed the House and the Senate. As private industry has learned, buyouts are the best way to streamline a work force while keeping it both productive and diverse.

And when Congress passes the crime bill, we'll take the savings from reducing the Federal bureaucracy by a quarter million and use it to put 100,000 more police officers on our streets. I'm also pleased by our progress in getting more value for taxpayers' money in the goods and services Government buys. Americans have a right to be angry when they hear their Government is spending too much for a hammer or a toilet seat. They have a right to demand that tax dollars be spent with discipline and judgment. From now on, Government's going to do what ordinary citizens