

So if you believe in these principles, let me say this: We need to take it out to the American people and tell them what we're trying to do. Let me tell you—this is the most interesting thing I've read recently—that wouldn't be too hard. A couple of weeks ago, the Wall Street Journal, which is hardly the house organ of the Clinton administration, conducted a little forum, and they explained our health care program to some citizens of York, Pennsylvania, without telling them anything about our plan. It turned out that the great majority of the group thought everything about our plan was great. But they didn't like our plan very much because of what they had heard on the paid ads, and they'd heard organized groups run against it. Then when they told them what was in it, they thought it was peachy.

What does that mean? Well, it means that we need people like you to go out and talk about the basic principles. Of course, there's a congressional process. Of course, there have to be amendments made. Of course, we have to work through this the way all laws are made. But it is very, very important that the Congress understands that you, as people who have put your lives, your heart and soul into health care, are for this, and that the people with whom you work, the people who are the patients of America, want it to be done.

Congress will go on recess soon, but democracy won't go on recess. It will pick up because the people will go out and talk to their Congressmen and Senators. So I implore you, as we look at this Easter recess, go tell your patients, your colleagues, your friends, your neighbors, and most important, your Senators and Representatives that the time to do this is now, that delaying it will make it just like a hangnail or an ingrown toenail; it's just going to get worse.

And one of the things—it's almost like sometimes when a country has to face these big problems—it's like when you're trying to raise your kids, sooner or later, you have to get across to people that when you've got a big problem, you might as well deal with it, because if you delay it, it will just get worse.

We have this momentous opportunity. Machiavelli was right. There is nothing too

difficult as to change the established order of things. But remember this, if it hadn't happened over and over and over again, since he wrote that, there would be no civilized society, and America would not be the oldest democracy on the face of the Earth. We can do this, and with your help, we will.

Thank you, and God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:14 p.m. on the South Lawn at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Jesse C. Haggerty III, MD, chairman and program director of a family medicine residency program, Topeka, KS; Marva Wade, RN, president-elect, New York State Nurses Association, New York, NY; Sister Bernice Coreil, DC, senior vice president, System Integration, Daughters of Charity National Health System, St. Louis, MO. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Proclamation 6658—Education and Sharing Day, U.S.A., 1994

March 23, 1994

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

America's success in the years to come requires a national commitment to providing excellence in education. Our ability to seize the opportunities before us depends on the strength of our scholarship. We must build an educational system that offers our country's vast promise to every citizen. Only when we know that all of our students are receiving the best care and training possible can we say that we are prepared for the challenges of the future.

New innovations in teaching methods and curricula, combined with traditional lessons of ethics and morality, afford students a comprehensive education that will serve them well their entire lives. By sharing our experiences and our beliefs with the next generation of Americans, we can prepare our Nation for the awesome responsibilities and opportunities that lie ahead.

Rabbi Menachem Mendel Schneerson, the leader of the Lubavitch movement, has contributed a great deal to this important endeavor, advancing the ideals of sharing and education over the course of his long and rich life. As Rabbi Schneerson celebrates his 92nd birthday, it is fitting and appropriate

that the people of the United States honor his gifts to education and rededicate themselves to the teaching of ethics and morality.

Now, Therefore, I, William J. Clinton, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim March 23, 1994, as Education and Sharing Day, U.S.A. I call upon the people of the United States, Government officials, educators, and volunteers to observe the day with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-third day of March, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-four, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and eighteenth.

William J. Clinton

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 2:40 p.m., March 24, 1994]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on March 28.

Statement on the Air Collision at Pope Air Force Base

March 23, 1994

I am deeply saddened to learn of the tragic air collision at Pope Air Force Base in North Carolina and the resultant loss of life and injuries. Hillary and I join all Americans in expressing our condolences to the families and friends of those killed and wish a speedy recovery to those injured. This tragedy is a reminder that all those who serve in the military at home and abroad put their lives at risk in the service of their Nation and deserve the thanks of all Americans for doing so.

Statement Announcing a Meeting With Native Americans

March 23, 1994

I look forward to this historic meeting and to affirming our commitment to strengthening the nation-to-nation relationship we have with tribal governments.

NOTE: This statement was part of a White House press release announcing a meeting with American Indian and Alaska Native tribal leaders at the White House on April 29.

Statement on Denying Executive Clemency to Jonathan Pollard

March 23, 1994

After personally reviewing the Jonathan Pollard matter, I have decided to deny his application for executive clemency. I make this decision taking into account the recommendation of the Attorney General and the unanimous views of the law enforcement and national security agencies. My decision is based upon the grave nature of his offense and the considerable damage that his actions caused our Nation.

Mr. Pollard's crime is one of the most serious crimes against our country, placing national security secrets of the United States in the hands of another country. I have considered Mr. Pollard's argument that he is deserving of a shorter prison sentence because he spied for a friendly nation. I nevertheless believe that the enormity of Mr. Pollard's crime, the harm his actions caused to our country, and the need to deter every person who might even consider such actions, warrant his continued incarceration.

Remarks on Departure for Capitol Hill and an Exchange With Reporters

March 24, 1994

Air Collision at Pope Air Force Base

The President. Hello. I just wanted to make a brief statement. This morning, I called General Shelton at Fort Bragg and General Floyd at Pope Air Force Base to personally express my sorrow and condolences because of the tragedy yesterday, and to thank them, and through them, the members of our armed services who do the work that they do.

As I said in my statement yesterday, it's sometimes easy for those of us who enjoy the protection of the United States military to forget that it is a dangerous business, even in peace time, because of the training which must be carried out. And I think the hearts