tant to U.S. goals and interests in the region and, fundamentally, to the restoration of democracy in Haiti. I am not able to indicate at this time how long the deployment of U.S. Naval Forces in this multilateral operation will be necessary. I have continued the deployment of U.S. Armed Forces for these purposes pursuant to my constitutional authority to conduct foreign relations and as Commander in Chief.

I appreciate the support the Congress has provided for this important U.S. contribution to multilateral efforts to restore democracy to Haiti, and I look forward to continued cooperation with you in these matters.

Sincerely,

William J. Clinton

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to Thomas S. Foley, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Robert C. Byrd, President pro tempore of the Senate. An original was not available for verification of the content of this letter.

Nomination for Commissioner of the Rehabilitation Services Administration

April 20, 1994

The President today announced his intention to nominate Fredric K. Schroeder as Commissioner of the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA).

"As one who gradually became blind as a teenager, Dr. Schroeder knows all too well the challenges facing people with disabilities," the President said. "He has devoted his life to empowering disabled people, and I'm confident he will continue in his new assignment to help disabled Americans achieve their goals."

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

Remarks at the Democratic Congressional Dinner

April 20, 1994

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, for that enthusiastic introduction and for your equally enthusiastic leadership of the House. Senator Mitchell, Congressman Gephardt, Senator Graham and Congressman Fazio, Senator Rockefeller, Congressman Torricelli, to the host committee, and especially to our chair, Hugh Westbrook, all of you who have made so many sacrifices for the Democratic Party and for our country.

The Vice President and I are glad to be here tonight to see so many old friends; to know that what we have done together has made you willing to continue to work to keep our majority so that we can continue to work for you. And I have to tell you that I'm very proud—very, very proud—of all the Democratic Members of Congress who have worked with us and without whom we could not have done anything over the last 15 months to deal with the profound problems this country faces.

In that context, I am praying for the largemindedness to forgive George Mitchell for retiring. I have found the silver lining in that cloud. I finally figured out what George had in mind, you know, when he said at least he was going to give his whole heart and soul to passing health care. I didn't have it figured out until he announced today his engagement to the director of a sports marketing firm. [*Laughter*] This is the method behind his madness. He is always methodical.

What he's got in mind for the rest of the year is a bunch of commercials with George and Larry Byrd and Michael Jordan. [*Laughter*] And they'll be at the top of a building or in space somewhere, and he'll say, "Here's how we're going to pass health care." He'll say, "Off the Finance Committee, over the Ways and Means Committee, through the Conference Committee, to the President, nothing but net." [*Laughter*]

I will say Senator Mitchell has caused me some minor inconvenience, not at all of his own doing, but because of developments in the last 24 to 36 hours when he decided he did not want to be on the Supreme Court. I had to go back to the drawing board. Well, you know, it's a real pain to get anybody confirmed in the Senate today. Have you noticed that? [*Laughter*] I mean, it's gotten to the point where I don't even want to go to dinner with anybody that can get confirmed in the Senate. [*Laughter*]

Anyway, we did, because this is the second time this has happened, we had a lot of sterling candidates for the Supreme Court whom we thought we had thoroughly vetted. And now, lo and behold, I've got to go back to every one of them and ask them, boxers or briefs? [*Laughter*] Can you believe the indignities you have to endure if you're President these days? [*Laughter*] James Carville said the other day that the President ought to be accountable, but he shouldn't become America's piñata. [*Laughter*]

I want to say a special word of tribute and appreciation to Tip O'Neill and to Millie and to the O'Neill family. I loved that film. And I loved being reminded that in the midst of all the things that we sometimes get diverted by in this town, engagement in politics can serve a deeper purpose and it must. I am proud of the life that Tip O'Neill lived and the legacy he left.

And I guess what I want to say to you tonight—I've given a lot of thought to it; I don't have to recount what we've done; others have done that—is to ask you to remember what was in that film. I have often wondered what I would think about 5 minutes before I left this old Earth if I had only 5 minutes' notice. I think that I would think about the people that I loved, my family and my friends, the people with whom I shared friendship, the exhilarating things in which I was involved, and maybe what the flowers looked and smelled like in the springtime. And that most of the things that we obsess about for most of our lives would just vanish away if we all had 5 minutes' notice.

So the trick is always to live as if we were on 5 minutes' notice. I say that because you and I know that this election season, if history is any guide, will be a challenging one for us. We know that because we have more seats up than the other party. We know that because, historically, the President's party loses some ground at midterm. We know that because we have so many people who are retiring after justifiable, laborious service.

But I know something else: I know that for 15 months, we have worked hard to say yes to America and that by and large, vast majorities of the other party, at every turn in the road, have focused on how to keep saying no. I know that we have tried to come to grips with problems that were long ignored. I know that I have tried to reach out beyond party divisions and invited others in good faith to join us. I know that together we have tried to lift up our common efforts, not tear other people down, to unite this country and not to divide it.

You can't blame the American people for being cynical after all they've been through and the way it's all portrayed. And you can't blame people for expressing their frustrations and their hurts when they still haven't felt the updraft that is in this economy. And many of you go on to face difficult races in an atmosphere that may seem slightly unrealistic and sort of shrouded in a fog, but what I want to say to you tonight is to pierce the fog. You must show the conviction that what you have done matters to you and will matter to the last day you're on this Earth and that you intend to keep on facing these problems and seizing these opportunities and what pierces the fog is the record.

There is a truth here, there is a reality. The deficit is down. We are dealing with the problems of crime and the problems that working families face and the problems of health care and the need for more jobs and all the difficult challenges facing America. And we are trying to seize opportunities that we had for too long ignored.

And even in the areas in foreign policy that have taken so much of my attention in the last 2 weeks, that have no easy answers, we at least are squaring our shoulders to the wheel and trying to honestly face the problems facing this country and move it forward.

And so, we believe the purpose of politics is to unite the American people and to move this country forward, to enter the next century with this still being the greatest country in the world, to give everybody in this country a chance to live up to his or her God-given capacities. And we believe that Government has a role in that, that we can't live other people's lives for them but neither can we walk away from people's problems.

We offer a partnership in America; we offer opportunity; we insist on responsibility. But we know that what binds us together is more than a bunch of words; it's a shared existence, a shared set of values, and com-

mon future whether we all like it or not. We are going up or down together.

And for 15 months we have begun to push away the fog. We have begun together to take on these problems and to move this country forward and to give people a sense of possibility again so that politics could be more than personal advantage or personal harm. It could be about how to lift ourselves up together and to give people chances they don't now have and to solve problems that only Government can solve. This must be the message of this election year.

For those of you who have come here to make it possible for the campaigns to be staffed and the ads to be run, I say to you, we have a record to run on. We have a message to take out there. And we can defy the odds because the odds are about statistics and not about the reality of 1994.

The reality of 1994 is that we are fulfilling the promise of that remarkable campaign in 1992. And eventually, in race after race, in district after district, in State after State, if there is conviction and if it's backed up by reality and we keep working this year to build on what happened last year, then the people of this country will respond whether they are retired to sunny Florida in Senator Graham's State or whether they live in Co-op City in Congressman Engel's district or whether they're living in one of those beautiful towns in Speaker Foley's wonderful district in Washington or someplace in between, the truth will prevail if we believe it, if we have conviction, and if we fight not for ourselves but for some higher purpose.

It is no accident, my fellow Americans, that in the face of the march of progress you have seen in these last 15 months, there has been an intensified atmosphere of highly personal attacks and negative, often, histrionics. It is because we are on to something. And good things are happening, and we are moving forward.

But we focus on those things at our peril. The American people have a lot of sense and an enormous capacity for discounts. And they know politics for what it is. And yes, they make a mistake every now and then, but more than half the time on more than half the issues for over 200 years now, they have been right. And that's why we're all sitting here tonight, because our system has worked.

Tip O'Neill once said, if you take care of the people, that'll take care of the next election. Well, we're taking care of the people, and we've got to make sure they know what we're doing, and we've got to make sure that we know that we will be rewarded.

So, I say to you, what's the prescription for '94? People like you helping the Members of Congress to get their message out, Members of Congress full of conviction and courage, and a record in Congress in '94 that equals the one in '93 with a crime bill, with health care reform, with the education reforms, with the training reforms, with a message that says, we're going to face our problems and seize our opportunities.

I want you to feel good about this year. So what if it's a higher hill to climb. The reason we've got more folks up is because we've got more folks in. And if we didn't have more folks in, we wouldn't be doing what we're doing. And we have to keep it that way.

I used to tell people in the campaign of 1992 that I was a Democrat by heritage, instinct, and conviction. And even though I get mad from time to time at things that happen, I never thought about leaving. I always felt that when I was home serving in State government and for a dozen years as my State's Governor—but I'll tell you something, after spending 15 months here, I know it's true more deeply, more profoundly than I could have ever imagined before I showed up. I want you, every one of you, to leave this room tonight and say,"We're not going to have to run against the other guys. We're going to defend ourselves, but we're going to run on our record and for the people of the United States, and we are going to lift this debate in 1994. We will not let it be torn down. We will not let the fog of inaccuracy and negativism embrace the American people. In every district, in every State, we will be proud of what we have done. We will assert it with conviction." And when it's all over, when people vote in November, they will look and say, "We want those people to stay in because they're interested in us, not themselves. They're fighting for us, and they're making a difference. And it's good for America, and it's good for my children. It's good for the

grandchildren,'' like that wonderful little girl that Tip O'Neill held up.

Don't forget what this is about, folks. And imagine what you want to be remembered for because you were in politics if you get your 5 minutes' notice. If we take that 5 minutes' notice to the American people in 1994, we will have a thunderous victory.

Thank you, and God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:32 p.m. at the Washington Hilton Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to Hugh Westbrook, director of finance, Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Remarks on the Observance of Earth Day

April 21, 1994

Thank you, Josephine—I saved the environment; did you like that? [*Laughter*] Thank you, Josephine, for that wonderful statement. Thank you, Steve, for your work, and all of you who helped to restore this wonderful park. And thank you, ladies and gentlemen, for coming.

There are so many people here we could introduce, but I do want to mention two others who are here: First of all, the wonderful Representative of the District of Columbia in the United States Congress, Eleanor Holmes Norton, thank you for coming. And the head of our national service movement, which is providing a lot of our foot soldiers in our attempt to merge the community and the environment, Mr. Eli Segal, thank you for coming, sir. I also see in the audience two people that make me wonder if we're going to be extras in a 1994 movie, Dennis Weaver and Chevy Chase. Thank you for coming, guys. Thank you both for coming. Stand up. [*Applause*] We're all available for tryouts, aren't we? [*Laughter*]

I want to say a special word of thanks as I begin to Josephine Butler and to all the people in this community for making this park what it is. I'm proud to say that the Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt has designated this park as a national heritage site, not only because of its beauty but because of what it represents about what we, as a people, can do.

The people of this community took this park back. They made it a place where families could come and young people could come and children could play. I don't know how many times in the 1980's when I was just visiting Washington like any other American, when I went out right by this park, when I would ask people over and over and over again, I said, ''That is the most beautiful place I've ever seen,'' and somebody from Washington would say, ''Well, don't go in there. It's a dangerous place.'' I mean, in broad daylight. I must have asked a half a dozen times.

And now, because of what you have done—look at it, I mean, look at the fountain, the water, the beauty of this place. It's absolutely unbelievable and a great, incredible tribute to the people in this community. That's the most important thing I think we can say or do today, just to recognize the power of ordinary citizens to rebuild their own lives, environmentally, responsibly, and make their lives better at the same time. You are a shining example of that.

Today, we honor the community leaders who reclaimed the park: the president of the Friends of Meridian Hill—how many hours have you donated to this, sir?—over 5,000. Reverend Morris Samuel, who courted his wife under a cherry tree not far from here and never stopped visiting this park; Malcolm Peabody, a businessman who helped to bring 150 businesses into the Meridian Hill coalition; Antonio Montes, a community leader and assistant to Congresswoman Norton, who helped to get the first funding increase for this park in the Federal budget in almost 20 years; and Lieutenant Henry Berberich of the U.S. Park Police, who turned down several promotions because he wanted to keep protecting this park and who embodies the spirit of community policing at its best. Where are you, sir? Let's give him a big hand. [*Applause*]

In just 4 years, crime in this park has declined by 90 percent. That's a pretty good standard for America to try to emulate. New businesses have moved nearby. I was in the Kalorama Studios just a couple of days ago doing the MTV forum with young people.