

American promotion of freedom and opposition to tyranny—are as vital as ever.

Dean Rusk's decency, and his loyalty to the Presidents whom he served and to those who served under him, remains a source of inspiration. When he concluded his 8 years as Secretary of State—the second longest tenure of any American who served in that position—President Johnson awarded him the Presidential Medal of Freedom, and he said, "The man who has served me most intelligently, faithfully, and nobly is Dean Rusk."

We will always treasure Dean Rusk's contribution to the United States. And we will honor his memory by always striving to emulate his example.

Statement on the Northwest Forest Plan

December 21, 1994

Today, a U.S. District Court upheld the Northwest Forest Plan. This decision allows us to continue to move forward in pursuit of my commitment to the people and the environment of the Pacific Northwest and northern California.

For years, gridlock over the management of public forest lands created an uncertain future for the people of the region. It was a problem my administration inherited, and one that we made a priority to solve.

Just 7 months after the announcement of the forest plan, much has already been done. Unemployment for the entire region is at its lowest level in years, millions of dollars have been distributed to more than 100 communities for economic revitalization, and work is underway to analyze and restore damaged watersheds and protect millions of acres of old-growth habitat. The plan approved today will provide for a sustainable level of timber harvesting, while protecting the environment.

In the true spirit of reinventing Government, the plan is a model of interagency cooperation with seven different Federal agencies working together, sharing information, and making joint decisions. It is the common sense way to do business and will prevent us from falling back to the days of gridlock. We are moving forward at last, and my ad-

ministration and I remain committed to the people, to the economy, and to the environment of the Pacific Northwest and northern California.

Exchange With Reporters at Press Secretary Dee Dee Myers' Final Briefing

December 22, 1994

The President. I thought I should come in and get you out of hot water, since that's what you've been doing for me for years. [Laughter]

What I want to know is, why didn't our Hearts games make this list?

Press Secretary Myers. That's the things I will not miss.

The President. Oh. [Laughter]

Press Secretary Myers. Because that would be on my top 10 list of things I will miss.

Q. Do you have a list, Mr. President?

The President. Well—

Q. Favorite questions?

The President. Favorite questions? No, I—Dee Dee is my best Hearts partner. That's a trauma I'm trying to deal with here at Christmas time.

No, I have nothing to say about this business work. I just wanted to come in here and say in front of all of you how very grateful I am for everything Dee Dee has done for me since long before I became President, starting in our campaign. I reminded her of the first trip we took together was on a little bitty airplane, and I fell asleep, which was some sort of omen about how helpful I would be in answering difficult questions. And we've had a wonderful professional relationship. We've had a good personal friendship. I think she is one of the best people I have ever had the privilege of working with. And I'm really going to miss her. And I'm especially going to miss the card games. And Air Force One food is not all that bad. [Laughter]

Q. Who is going to replace her?

The President. No one is going to replace her.

And I want you all to—I'm going to cut you some slack. We don't have to talk any-