

Nomination for District of Columbia Superior Court Judges

January 4, 1995

The President today announced the nomination of the following three individuals to the District of Columbia Superior Court: Ronna Lee Beck, Linda Kay Davis, and Eric T. Washington. The President is authorized by statute to nominate the District of Columbia Superior Court judges from a list of individuals recommended by the District of Columbia Judicial Nomination Commission.

"I am confident that these individuals will serve with distinction," the President said. "Their legal skill and dedication to the community will be strong assets to the District of Columbia and to this Court."

NOTE: Biographies of the nominees were made available by the Office of the Press Secretary.

Remarks Prior to a Meeting With Congressional Leaders and an Exchange With Reporters

January 5, 1995

The President. I want to welcome the new congressional leadership and congratulate them. I was pleased with what I heard and saw yesterday, and I think that we're off to a good start. The real work is now beginning.

I note that there are several areas where I believe that we can work together and where I hope we can work rapidly, congressional reform, the line-item veto. I hope we can do something on lobbying reform and on campaign finance reform. I believe that there are areas we can work together on welfare reform, on health care reform. We can do a lot of things.

I think we all know that we're expert in stopping things. What we want to do is prove now we can work together to make things happen. And I'm encouraged by what I've heard and seen.

I also think there is a consensus in this country that we shouldn't do anything that would increase the deficit, hurt the middle class, hurt poor people who are trying to work their way into the middle class, or do anything that would undermine our eco-

nomie recovery. So on that basis, I think we can look forward to a good Congress. I'm excited about it and ready to go. And I'm glad they're here.

Q. Is it like a compromise—between you and me—[*laughter*]—is it going to be compromise or combat?

The President. My answer to that is, Mr. Gingrich will whisper into your right ear, and I will whisper into your left ear. [*Laughter*]

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:13 a.m. in the Cabinet Room at the White House. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Remarks on the Appointment of Michael D. McCurry as Assistant to the President and Press Secretary and an Exchange With Reporters

January 5, 1995

The President. This is a live event. Now listen, you all have to be respectful. I just saw CNN describe this as a live event. [*Laughter*]

To none of your surprise, I am very pleased to announce the appointment of Mike McCurry as the Assistant to the President and the White House Press Secretary. He has done a very fine job representing our administration at the Department of State since I took office. He has dealt with the wide range of very sensitive, complicated, and difficult issues, and he's done it very well.

He has almost two decades of experience here in Washington, but to give you an idea of the kind of person he is in spite of that, the only pictures on his wall are the pictures of his wife and his two children. And they have a third one on the way. Debra and Mike told me on the way out here that they were the embodiment of the family values of this administration. [*Laughter*] And let me say I appreciate the personal sacrifice that both of them are making for Mike to do this job.

Meeting With Congressional Leaders

Before I turn the podium over to Mr. Pannetta and officially welcome Mike McCurry, let me say that, as all of you know, I had my first meeting today with the new bipartisan leadership of the Congress. I was very