

can do if everybody pulls together and works together.

I know that a lot of you have really painful stories now about work you've done in your home that seems to be wiped away and family furniture that may be lost forever and a lot of things that are a very important part of your past. But I would just urge you not to lose the optimism, the resilience, the strength that I have sensed here from all of you today. Don't give up. We will look at the long-term problems that I've been asked to look at. I know this is the second time this has happened in 10 years, and you're getting sick of waiting for the water to come every time the thunder claps overhead. So we'll look at that.

But meanwhile, let's all pull together and work together and follow the lead of these fine young people and the families I had the privilege to visit with today.

Thank you, and God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:46 p.m. at the corner of Tina Way and Elisa Way. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Statement on Passage of the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995

January 17, 1995

I want to commend the Congress for passing the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 today. It is about time that Congress lived by the same laws it places on the private sector. Passage of this bill fulfills a campaign commitment of mine.

However, while this legislation is an important political reform, it is only the first step in what must be a greater effort to change business-as-usual in Washington. Therefore, I reiterate my call for Congress to act swiftly on several much needed reform proposals including real campaign finance reform and the gift ban and a strong version of the line-item veto.

Proclamation 6766—Year of the Grandparent, 1995

January 17, 1995

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

The American family has undergone dramatic changes in the past few decades. Families have felt the effects of a rising divorce rate, declining birth rate, and an increasingly fast-paced and complicated economy. At the same time, Americans are living longer, retiring younger, and taking advantage of more leisure hours than ever before. Today, approximately 60 million grandparents in the United States look forward to spending time with their families and to enjoying their much-deserved respite.

Despite the many changes, grandparents remain an important source of knowledge and stability in American families. Grandparents help us understand the past and encourage us to hope for the future. They preserve and strengthen the values we hold most dear—compassion and generosity, responsibility and tradition. These relationships between generations have always been central to the happiness and well-being of young and old alike.

Households made up of several generations have increased by more than 50 percent in the past 25 years, and today, some 3.4 million children live in a household headed by a grandparent. For parents struggling with issues including substance abuse or teenage pregnancy, divorce or separation, grandparents can be invaluable resources of compassion. For children who are abused or neglected, grandparents can be lifesavers. All too often, grandparents embrace these tremendous responsibilities because no one else is able. But they also do so out of love, out of the wisdom that comes from a lifetime spent learning the importance of family. For all they teach us and for all they give, we pledge this year to honor grandparents everywhere.

The Congress, by Public Law 103-368, has designated 1995 as the "Year of the Grandparent" and has authorized and requested

the President to issue a proclamation in observance of this year.

Now, Therefore, I, William J. Clinton, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim 1995 as the Year of the Grandparent. I invite Federal officials, local government, advocacy groups, and families across the United States to join in commemorating the many contributions that grandparents make and in observing this year with appropriate ceremonies, programs, and activities.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this seventeenth day of January, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-five, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and nineteenth.

William J. Clinton

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 9:25 a.m., January 18, 1995]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on January 19.

Remarks on Loan Guarantees for Mexico

January 18, 1995

Thank you very much, Secretary Rubin and Ambassador Kantor.

Ladies and gentlemen, we wanted to be here today to make the clearest public case we can for the proposal which has been developed by the administration and the bipartisan leadership in Congress for dealing with the present situation. We have worked hard with an extraordinary group of people who have joined forces because all of us realize how important this proposal is, not only to the people of Mexico but also to the United States and to our workers. We are acting to support the Mexican economy and to protect and promote the interests of the American people.

As Ambassador Kantor said, and as all of you know very well, we live in an increasingly global economy in which people, products, ideas, and money travel across national borders with lightning speed. We've worked hard to help our workers take advantage of that economy by getting our own economic

house in order, by expanding opportunities for education and training, and by expanding the frontiers of trade, by doing what we could to make sure there was more free and fair trade for Americans. And we know, and all of you know, that those efforts are creating high wage jobs for our people that would otherwise not be there.

Our goal, our vision must be to create a global economy of democracies with free market, not government-run, economies; democracies that practice free and fair trade, that give themselves a chance to develop and become more prosperous, while giving our own people the opportunity they deserve to reap the benefits of high-quality, high-productivity American labor, in terms of more jobs and higher incomes.

We have pursued this goal with vision and with discipline, through NAFTA, through the Summit of the Americas, through a number of other international endeavors like GATT and the Asian-Pacific Economic Cooperation Group. But we have pursued it especially here in our own hemisphere, where we are blessed to see every nation but one governed in a democratic fashion, and a genuine commitment to free market economics and to more open trade.

We have to know that the future on this path is plainly the right one, but as with any path, it cannot be free of difficulties. We have to make decisions based on a determined devotion to the idea of what we are pursuing over the long run. We know that, given the volatility of the economic situation in the globe now, there can be developments that for the movement are beyond the control of any of our trading partners, themselves developing nations, which could threaten this vision and threaten the interests of the American people.

Mexico's present financial difficulty is a very good case in point. Of course, it's a danger to Mexico, but as has already been said, it is plainly also a danger to the economic future of the United States.

NAFTA helped us to dramatically increase our exports of goods and services. It helped us to create more than 100,000 jobs here at home through increased exports to Mexico. But over the long run, it means even more. It means even more opportunities with Mex-