

And just before I came here, I was with Secretary Cisneros and the First Lady at a homeless shelter here in Washington, DC, where we were feeding people. And I'm sad to say I saw a fresh and personal example of the fact that the fastest growing group of homeless people in our country are young women and their young children.

So on this Thanksgiving we should be thankful for our blessings, and we should redouble our resolve to do everything we can to make America a place of honor and decency and community, where we can all give thanks.

I'd like to say one other thing, too. I'm very proud of the United States negotiators who did so much to help to bring about the peace agreement in Bosnia yesterday. There will be many questions in the days ahead about all the things that have to be answered before we can go forward with this project. And I expect to be addressing the Nation about it shortly.

But let me just remind you of one thing on this Thanksgiving eve. Among other things, in that tiny country, so much smaller than the United States, there are one million homeless people. So I say, on this Thanksgiving, I hope God will bless the peace and bring those folks home again as well.

Let me now turn to the moment at hand, which I look forward to every day—every year, I mean. This is a—[laughter]—I wouldn't mind having it every day, actually. In 1947, President Truman began this great tradition of accepting a Thanksgiving turkey and then granting it a Presidential pardon.

[At this point, the turkey gobbled.]

**The President.** You can see one person thoroughly agrees with my decision here. [Laughter] This year, I guess we can say, since the Government is back to work, I can at least grant to one living thing in America, a permanent furlough. [Laughter]

Approximately 45 million turkeys will be consumed tomorrow all across our country but not this one. As in previous years, it will be donated to Kidwell Farms, a petting zoo in Fairfax, Virginia. I am glad to be able to give this turkey a pardon. And as I said, if you look at his very patriotic red, white, and

blue face and feathers, it seems like the American thing to do on Thanksgiving.

I believe this turkey was born in the State of California and raised there. And we're delighted to have the turkey and the turkey's owner come all the way from California. And to all the farmers who raise turkeys in North Carolina, Minnesota, California, my home State of Arkansas, and throughout the country, let me say we appreciate what you do for our agricultural sector and for the nutrition of the United States.

But I'm very glad that one of your products is going to be exempt from the cruel fate that will make so many of us happy tomorrow. And by this action, I hereby pardon this turkey. There are so many turkeys in Washington, I should pardon at least one a year, I think. [Laughter]

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:04 p.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House.

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## Digest of Other White House Announcements

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### November 20

In the evening, the President met with Democratic Members of Congress on Capitol Hill.

The President announced his intention to appoint Kenneth L. Salazar to serve as a member of the Western Water Policy Review Advisory Commission.

### November 21

In the morning, the President had telephone conversations with President Lech Walesa and President-elect Aleksander Kwasniewski of Poland.

In the afternoon, the President had lunch with the Vice President. He then had a telephone conversation with President Alija Izetbegovic of Bosnia-Herzegovina, President Franjo Tudjman of Croatia, and President Slobodan Milosevic of Serbia to congratulate them on the Bosnia-Herzegovina peace agreement.

In the evening, the President attended a reception at the Los Angeles Times Washington bureau.

**November 22**

The President announced his intention to appoint John H. Davidson to serve as a member of the Western Water Policy Review Advisory Commission.

**November 23**

In the morning, the President and Hillary and Chelsea Clinton went to Camp David, MD, for the Thanksgiving holiday.

**November 24**

The White House announced that the President will travel to Ramstein, Germany, on December 2 to meet with U.S. forces preparing for deployment to the Balkans.

The White House announced that the President has invited Prime Minister Shimon Peres of Israel for an official visit at the White House on December 11.

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**Nominations  
Submitted to the Senate**

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NOTE: No nominations were submitted to the Senate during the period covered by this issue.

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**Checklist  
of White House Press Releases**

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The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

**Released November 19**

Statement by Press Secretary Mike McCurry on the attack on the Egyptian Embassy in Islamabad, Pakistan

**Released November 20**

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Mike McCurry

**Released November 21**

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Mike McCurry

Statement by Press Secretary Mike McCurry on the President's telephone conversations with President Lech Walesa and President-elect Aleksander Kwasniewski of Poland

**Released November 22**

White House announcement on the First Family's Thanksgiving holiday at Camp David, MD

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Mike McCurry

**Released November 24**

Statement by Press Secretary Mike McCurry on the President's upcoming visit to Ramstein, Germany, on December 2

Statement by Press Secretary Mike McCurry announcing the upcoming official visit by Prime Minister Shimon Peres of Israel on December 11

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**Acts Approved  
by the President**

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**Approved November 19**

H.R. 2020 / Public Law 104-52  
Treasury, Postal Service, and General Government Appropriations Act, 1996

H.R. 2492 / Public Law 104-53  
Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 1996

H.J. Res. 123 / Public Law 104-54  
Making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 1996, and for other purposes

**Approved November 20**

H.R. 436 / Public Law 104-55  
Edible Oil Regulatory Reform Act

H.J. Res. 122 / Public Law 104-56  
Making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 1996, and for other purposes