

want to get done and get agreed to. So we're trying to work out how to get the Federal employees back to work. We'd also like to get them paid. I think that's an integral part of getting them back to work. But as the President said, I think, frankly, most of our success so far has been that we've been in this room talking with each other and not getting involved in negotiating in public, and I think we've made a lot of progress.

**Q.** To follow on that, sir, is it healthy to have the House Speaker talking on CNN yesterday on the——

**Speaker Gingrich.** Oh, that is nonsense. I told the President on Friday that I was so favorable about him in answering their big question on "Evans & Novak" that I thought he'd want to see it. The fact is we're working very well together. I was asked a question about the campaign next year, and I suspect if you ask Mr. Gephardt or Vice President Gore about how they'll campaign next year, they'll give you similar answers. We're negotiating very well from a Government standpoint in here, and I think we have a lot to be proud of. Our New Year's wish ought to be that we get this done and give the American people a balanced budget and the Government paid for and back to work.

**Senator Dole.** The Senate is going to meet at noon; we'll try to pass something to help the Federal employees.

**Q.** Are you closer?

**Senator Dole.** Oh, we're about 6 feet apart. [*Laughter*]

**Senator Daschle.** We'll be a lot closer in a couple of hours. [*Laughter*]

**The President.** We're working at it steady. Happy New Year everybody.

NOTE: The exchange began at 9:50 a.m. in the Cabinet Room at the White House. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

### **Statement on the Death of Admiral Arleigh A. Burke**

*January 1, 1996*

We mourn the passing today of Adm. Arleigh A. Burke, U.S. Navy (Retired), whose dedicated and exceptional career is cherished by everyone who knew of his extraordinary

courage, legendary reputation, and selfless service.

Last summer, as I prepared for the 50th anniversary of the commemoration of V-J Day and the end of the war in the Pacific, I had the honor and privilege of having dinner with Admiral Burke. I benefited then from his wise counsel, as had previous Presidents before me. Courageous and gallant, he was renowned for his heroism and leadership during the Pacific battles of World War II, from Cape St. George and the Solomon Sea to Leyte Gulf and Okinawa. During his 6-year tenure as Chief of Naval Operations in the pivotal years of the cold war, Admiral Burke's vision ensured a balanced and versatile Navy to help deter world war and respond to whatever crises might come. The U.S. Navy, in naming one of its most powerful class of surface ships after "31-Knot Burke," has ensured that his name will ride the seas as a reminder in the coming century of an indomitable destroyerman and naval leader who stood for freedom and the excellence needed to defend it.

To Admiral Burke's wife of 72 years, Roberta, his family and friends, and to the Navy community, I extend my heartfelt condolences. We will remember him as one of America's finest sailors and most capable military leaders.

### **Message to the Congress Transmitting a Report on Loan Guarantees to Israel**

*December 30, 1995*

*To the Congress of the United States:*

Enclosed is an unclassified report on the Loan Guarantees to Israel Program and on economic conditions in Israel, as required by section 226(k) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended (Public Law 87-195), and section 1205 of the International Security and Development Cooperation Act of 1985 (Public Law 99-983).

**William J. Clinton**

The White House,  
December 30, 1995.

NOTE: This message was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on January 2, 1996.

### **Exchange With Reporters Prior to a Meeting With Congressional Leaders**

*January 2, 1996*

#### **Budget Negotiations**

**Q.** Mr. President, is this the meeting at which you're going to start making some compromises on the most contentious issues?

**The President.** Well, I'm looking forward to it, and I hope we can reach an agreement. I want to compliment the Senate on voting to reopen the Government today for the next several days while we attempt to finalize this, and I hope the House will follow suit. That's a very good sign, and I'm looking forward to the meeting tonight.

**Q.** Will the House follow suit, Mr. Speaker?

**Speaker Gingrich.** Well, our Members will be back by noon tomorrow, and we hope to meet with all of them and brief them on tonight's meeting and whatever happens tomorrow morning and maybe get something done during the day tomorrow. I think if we can both get movement on the balanced budget and get the Government back to work, and paid for, that really would be a good step in the right direction.

**Q.** Will you encourage them to take the Senate bill?

**Speaker Gingrich.** We're going to have a good meeting tonight, and we'll report to the Members what happened when they get back tomorrow.

NOTE: The exchange began at 6:15 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

### **Proclamation 6860—Death of Admiral Arleigh A. Burke**

*January 2, 1996*

*By the President of the United States of America*

#### **A Proclamation**

As a mark of respect for the memory of Admiral Arleigh Burke, one of our Nation's foremost naval heroes, I hereby order, by the authority vested in me as President of the United States of America by section 175 of

title 36 of the United States Code, that the flag of the United States shall be flown at half-staff upon all public buildings and grounds, at all military posts and naval stations, and on all naval vessels of the Federal Government in the District of Columbia and throughout the United States and its Territories and possessions until interment. I also direct that the flag shall be flown at half-staff for the same period at all United States embassies, legations, consular offices, and other facilities abroad, including all military facilities and naval vessels and stations.

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

**William J. Clinton**

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., January 4, 1996]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on January 5.

### **Remarks on the Impact of the Budget Impasse and an Exchange With Reporters**

*January 3, 1996*

**The President.** Good afternoon. I have just finished meeting with my Cabinet to receive an update on the consequences of the Government shutdown that Congress has imposed on the American people and on the hardworking public employees who are now working without pay and the many who want to work but are not permitted to return to work. Each day this shutdown continues, the consequences grow worse.

Before I get into some of the specific things that came out of the Cabinet meeting, let me remind the American people that this shutdown is not caused by the fact that the congressional leaders and I have not yet reached agreement on a balanced budget plan or on all the appropriations for this year. In fact, it is part of an explicit strategy by Republicans to shut the Government down to get their way on budget and tax issues.