

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:10 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Jack Valenti, president, Motion Picture Association of America.

**Executive Order 12990—
Adjustments of Rates of Pay and
Allowances for the Uniformed
Services, Amendment to Executive
Order 12984**

February 29, 1996

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including section 601 of Public Law 104-106, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. The rates of monthly basic pay (37 U.S.C. 203(a)), the rates of basic allowances for subsistence (37 U.S.C. 402), and the rates of basic allowances for quarters (37 U.S.C. 403(a)) for members of the uniformed services and the rate of monthly cadet or midshipman pay (37 U.S.C. 203(c)(1)) are adjusted as set forth on the schedule attached hereto and made a part hereof.

Sec. 2. The adjustments in rates of pay and allowances set forth on the attached schedule are effective on January 1, 1996.

Sec. 3. Section 4 and Schedule 8 of Executive Order No. 12984 of December 28, 1995, are superseded.

William J. Clinton

The White House,
February 29, 1996.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 3:01 p.m., March 1, 1996]

NOTE: This Executive order will be published in the *Federal Register* on March 5.

NOTE: This Executive order was signed on February 29, and released by the Office of the Press Secretary on March 1.

**Remarks in a Roundtable Discussion
With Families on Television
Programming**
March 1, 1996

The President. Thank you very much, Mr. Vice President. I might say, aren't we all glad to be in his big, beautiful office here. I love to come over here. I want to thank all of you for coming and to say to you and to the members of the media who are here, yesterday we heard for 2 hours from a remarkable assemblage of people who are involved in the television industry, people who broadcast the programs; we heard from cable people; we heard from the people who write the programs; people who represent the actors; producers. It was an amazing assemblage of people who got together and came to Washington to announce that they had decided to develop a rating system for television programs like the movie rating system, and that as the Vice President said, that that would be able to be used then when the V-chip becomes available in televisions.

Now, the V-chip, of course, will start coming into televisions in a couple of years. And we replace about 25 million televisions a year, I think, in America, so it will quickly be a fixture in a significant percentage of America's televisions. But the rating system presumably will still be helpful for parents even before they have the V-chip.

We wanted to have you in here today because we want to get a feel and we want the country to get a feel for what kinds of things parents feel about this rating system and the V-chip, what the young people feel about it, what you expect out of it, what do you think it will do, what won't it do, what would you like to see, how would you like to see it work? And of course, we have some advocates and professionals here who can talk about the impact of this on child-rearing in America and on childhood.

I must tell you, this is going to be a very complicated and difficult thing for these people in television to do in the sense that they have—there are many, many thousands of—tens of thousands of programs on all of these television stations, and as we get more cable channels, they will multiply exponentially. So the job of rating them is very different from

the job of rating a couple of thousand movies a year. So as they undertake this task, I think it's important for the people in the entertainment industry and the public at large to get just a feel for how parents feel about it, how young people feel about it and kind of how it should proceed, because they committed to have this done by the first of next year—no later than the first of next year, and perhaps sooner.

So we really just felt we ought to have this conversation today, and we thank you for joining us. And maybe we ought to start with you, Mrs. Somson. If you could tell the press—everybody, if you could tell the press your name when you speak and how you happen to be here.

[At this point, Ms. Somson praised the rating system and the V-chip as tools that parents can use to guard what their children will watch on television. Another participant then suggested that the V-chip and the industry meeting on ratings was a first step in pooling resources to produce better children's programming.]

The President. I want to talk about the better programming in a minute because I think that's a big part of it, especially when I ask the young people about it. But I want to give the parents who are here a chance to say anything they'd like to say about the V-chip and the ratings issue, and then I want to come back and talk about the V-chip with you. I want you to tell your story.

[A participant said that the technology of what viewers will be doing with the V-chip will assist the industry in refining and defining the rating system. He then said that he thought that viewers will actually vote with the V-chip so that advertisers and programmers will produce more family programming.]

The President. I'm so glad to hear you say that, because there were—you made two comments; I just want to say that to kind of resonate with the discussion we had with the people from the industry yesterday. Ted Turner said, and he went out and said in public, so I'm not saying anything in private he didn't say in public—that he strongly supported the rating system and what we were

doing, what they were doing, but he did think it would be very costly. And I think it will obviously cost a lot of money to figure out how to do this and then review all these programs, to set up the system. But I think he meant he thought it would be costly over the long run because programs would not have the same viewership and their advertisers would drop.

I think I see it more like you do; it's a voting system. It would be another—it's like the Nielsen ratings, except you won't have—this won't be a sample, you'll be able to actually know. You'll be able to at least sample all the V-chip homes, you take a representative sample. And it might actually change the content of programming so that the market, the market forces actually produce more positive programs.

The other thing you said I think is important, a couple of the folks who were skeptical yesterday talked about how this wouldn't be a panacea, it wouldn't solve all the problems. And one of the men in the broadcasting meeting said—I mean the industry meeting—he said, I'm going to take off my industry hat now and tell you that I'm a parent of three small children. I'm not looking for panaceas, I'm looking for a little help. And I think that's the way all of us who are parents look at this. There is no such thing as a panacea; we're looking for a little help.

So you made that point, and I thought it was very good.

[A participant said that the V-chip should reduce family tension because it would eliminate repeated discussion of whether a particular program is acceptable.]

The President. Hillary almost fell off the chair when you said that, the keeper of the remote. *[Laughter]*

Q. So we're really delighted with both the V-chip and the rating system.

[A participant said the V-chip and rating system is a vital first step for working parents who can't always be present when their children are watching television.]

[Vice President Gore then introduced Dr. Robert Phillips, Deputy Medical Director, American Psychiatric Association who discussed the powerful effect that free and gra-

tuitous violence on television has on children. He thanked the President and Vice President for their work in facilitating the industry and parents to work together to create a stronger and more healthy environment in which children can use television in a productive and useful way.]

The President. Hillary, do you want to comment on that, based on what you said in—

[At this point, Hillary Clinton said the more parents understand the link between what children see on television and their behavior, the more willing they will be to implement the rating system in their homes and to be ready to use the V-chip when it is available.]

The President. I want to get to the young people here. And let me tell you, it's okay if you disagree with us about this. We want to hear what you really think. But I want to ask the doctor one more question. Before I had this job, as I used to say, back when I had a life—*[laughter]*—I was Governor of my State when I ran a big prison system and a big criminal justice system, obviously. And then I was attorney general, and before that I taught criminal law. So I've been following issues of crime and violence closely from that perspective for more than 20 years now.

For most of my time, it was an article of faith that 75 percent of all the violent crimes in America were created by people between the ages of 17 and 26. And that there was almost a hormonal problem. If you could literally just get violent people and put them somewhere until they were 27, you could let them out and then they would not do that again. That there really almost seemed to be sea changes.

Now we see an astonishing thing. With the crime rate going down among people 18 and over, and I might add, drug use going down among people over 18, and violence going up among people under 18, as well as casual drug use. And I think there are plainly other reasons for increasing violent behavior among young people, including the lives that many of them have to live, virtually raising themselves on some of the meanest streets in America. But I gather from what you said that you really believe that the sort of cumulative, almost deadening impact of all this

media-generated violence is at least partly the explanation for rising rates of violence among juveniles.

[Dr. Phillips agreed with the President, and pointed out that the increase in juvenile crime was a multifactorial problem. Vice President Gore then pointed out that some of the other factors involved would be addressed at the President's White House Conference on Youth Violence on March 7. He then thanked the industry for taking the steps that they agreed to.]

The President. I thought maybe we ought to start with Catherine next to me because Catherine Murphy actually passed the first V-chip bill—*[laughter]*—in the United States of America. I think you all need to know that. It wasn't us; it was her. And so I think you ought to hear her story, and I'd like to know how you came to propose this legislation and what you think of it.

[At this point, Ms. Murphy referred to the "mock Senate" she attended with girls from around the world, and mentioned that the Girls Nation Senate president vetoed the "Senate's" proposed legislation on the V-chip.]

The President. They'll do that to you. *[Laughter]* Let me ask you this. Do you believe—I want to ask and then I want to go around to the students here—how do you think the V-chip should be used? And how much difference do you think there is in the age of the children in terms of the regulation of the programming?

[The participant described her family's television viewing and past-time habits, and mentioned that most young children watch too much television.]

The President. You watch television a lot?

[A participant discussed his preference for outdoors activities and said he only watches the news and a couple shows on television. Talking about his peers, he said they base their lives on television and what they see there.]

The President. If you've actually seen that in your friends who believe it—

Q. Yes.

The President. —that they're acting, they model what they do based on what they see on television.

[The participant confirmed that his peers model themselves after television show characters and voiced his support of the V-chip.]

The President. What about you? You're eleven, right?

[A participant said that he spends most of his time playing on the computer and asked if there will be a V-chip for computers.]

The President. Let's talk about that because that's going to be a big issue.

[Vice President Gore pointed out the need for an industry-wide system to rate computer games and allow parents to screen the Internet to prevent material inappropriate for children.]

The President. What do you think? Do you think your mother should have some influence over what you watch on television or should you decide?

[A participant said that parents should have influence over what children watch on television and described children in her class who pretend to be characters that they see on television.]

The President. Playing out what they saw on TV.

Q. Right.

The President. What about you all?

[A participant said that children tend to act out television shows instead of playing and expanding their imagination. Another participant referred to recent studies on television viewing habits and suggested that parents need to encourage children to be critical viewers.]

The President. What do you think?

[Vice President Gore, prompted by a participant's remark that children get scared by some television programs, said the V-chip would give parents a tool to help children avoid watching programs which may be harmful. Other participants said that the parents should teach their children to be critical viewers and encourage them to participate in constructive activities and hobbies.]

Several participants elaborated on the negative influence of violent programs on children. A participant then pointed out the useful, positive influences of television.]

The President. I'm so glad to hear you say that as well. But that—I don't know how much time we have left, but I think we ought to hear from the young people especially on the flip side of this because we believe it's important, we applaud the industry for developing the rating system and making it compatible with the V-chip.

But the Children's Television Act, which was passed a couple of years ago, also calls upon producers of the television programs to develop more and better programs that will be appealing to children in a positive way.

And I just want to make two points and then ask anybody who wants to comment to comment. There were two interesting ideas which came out yesterday. One is, the people who were there, not us, the Vice President and I just watched, but in the room there, in the industry, there was a genuine argument about whether, particularly younger people, would be as likely to watch any kind of educational program as they would a sort of a violent cartoon or something. And there was a woman there from the Discovery Channel who was a very powerful advocate and said, that is not true. If you make education entertaining, it will be watched. And she gave some examples. That's the first thing: would you like to have more positive programming on television?

The second thing I think's important to point out, one of you sort of inched up to it when you were talking about the Internet, young people on the computer. All these technologies, the Vice President knows 100 times more about this than I do, but it looks to me like they're all merging. I mean, it won't be very long before you can call up any movie you want on your computer and before a lot of the things you see on your television screen are interactive.

So that I think that basically we're watching, we're seeing a process—and that, by the way, will engage more young people because as they become more computer literate, if they have interactive programs on television, it will bring them up. Or if they can call mov-

ies up on the computer, it will, so we really need to also focus on the positive things that we ought to be doing for our children.

And so, what do you think? Do you think, would young people be just as likely to watch more constructive programs if they were genuinely entertaining, or do you believe there's just an inherent predisposition to watch the violence?

[A participant stated that if children were fascinated by interesting programming, it would open doors of opportunity for them. Hillary Clinton pointed out the concern of the industry that older children will not choose programming for themselves that is educational, and asked how we can send a message to the industry that this is not always true. A participant then stated that she preferred watching nonviolent movies.]

Mrs. Clinton. You are an exception—*[laughter]*—based on the numbers that are out there.

Q. I think also it has to do with where I live and the family upbringing that I had.

Mrs. Clinton. That's exactly right.

[At this point, a participant discussed programming for high school children and suggested that the industry involve teenagers in programming. Another participant discussed how strengthening the Children's Television Act impacted on the quality of programming. Vice President Gore then said that it is up to parents to choose the programs they want their children to watch and the V-chip will be a tool to aid them in their efforts.]

The President. First of all, I would like to thank all of you for being here, especially the young people. Thank you, doctor, it's good to see you again.

Dr. Phillips. Good to see you, Mr. President.

The President. I want to thank Tipper Gore when she first proposed a rating system for records it was considered heresy. And now she's lived and worked hard at this long enough to make it a matter of American conventional wisdom in television.

And let me say that for Hillary and for me, based on our experience over the last 15 or 20 years, maybe the most important reason to have this conversation today was the point that Catherine made when she first talked about her work for the V-chip, and that is that technology is intrinsically action-oriented, but neither intrinsically good nor bad. It depends on the values and the action of the people in control of the technology. And while this gives more—the V-chip and the ratings information will give more power to parents, it's utterly useless unless they use it.

And so what I'm hoping that this did today is to convince other people in other community settings and every community in our country to begin to discuss these matters and to begin to now, if their community does not have an advocacy group like the one you are involved in, perhaps to form one or at least figure out how friends and neighbors can get together and figure out how they're going to use this ratings information and figure out how they're going to use the V-chip as the V-chip comes in.

But I was glad to hear Mrs. Somson say what she did about this. You don't have to wait for the V-chip to make use of the ratings information. You know, most parents are still influenced—most children still have some influence about what their parents say, and parents are influenced by their children. So I just want to encourage that we need that every place in America.

But this law that was passed, and this remarkable effort by the industry will not amount to a hill of beans if the parents do not take action in their homes and if in each community the community activists who know how to make the most of this don't work with the parents to do it.

Thanks a lot. It's great to see you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:55 a.m. in the Vice President's Ceremonial Office, in the Old Executive Office Building. In his remarks, he referred to Ted Turner, chief executive officer and president, Turner Broadcasting Service, Inc.

Proclamation 6867—Declaration of a National Emergency and Invocation of Emergency Authority Relating to the Regulation of the Anchorage and Movement of Vessels

March 1, 1996

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Whereas, on February 24, 1996, Cuban military aircraft intercepted and destroyed two unarmed U.S.-registered civilian aircraft in international airspace north of Cuba;

Whereas the Government of Cuba has demonstrated a ready and reckless willingness to use excessive force, including deadly force, in the ostensible enforcement of its sovereignty;

Whereas, on July 13, 1995, persons in U.S.-registered vessels who entered into Cuban territorial waters suffered injury as a result of the reckless use of force against them by the Cuban military; and

Whereas the entry of U.S.-registered vessels into Cuban territorial waters could again result in injury to, or loss of life of, persons engaged in that conduct, due to the potential use of excessive force, including deadly force, against them by the Cuban military, and could threaten a disturbance in international relations;

Now, Therefore, I, William J. Clinton, President of the United States of America, by the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including section 1 of title II of Public Law 65-24, ch. 30, June 15, 1917, as amended (50 U.S.C. 191), sections 201 and 301 of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1601 *et seq.*), and section 301 of title 3, United States Code, find and do hereby proclaim that a national emergency does exist by reason of a disturbance or threatened disturbance of international relations. In order to address this national emergency and to secure the observance of the rights and obligations of the United States, I hereby authorize and direct the Secretary of Transportation (the "Secretary") to make and issue such rules and regulations as the Secretary may find appropriate to regulate the anchorage

and movement of vessels, and delegate to the Secretary my authority to approve such rules and regulations, as authorized by the Act of June 15, 1917.

Section 1. The Secretary may make rules and regulations governing the anchorage and movement of any vessel, foreign or domestic, in the territorial waters of the United States, which may be used, or is susceptible of being used, for voyage into Cuban territorial waters and that may create unsafe conditions and threaten a disturbance of international relations. Any rule or regulation issued pursuant to this proclamation may be effective immediately upon issuance as such rule or regulation shall involve a foreign affairs function of the United States.

Sec. 2. The Secretary is authorized to inspect any vessel, foreign or domestic, in the territorial waters of the United States, at any time; to place guards on any such vessel; and, with my consent expressly hereby granted, take full possession and control of any such vessel and remove the officers and crew, and all other persons not specifically authorized by the Secretary to go or remain on board the vessel when necessary to secure the rights and obligations of the United States.

Sec. 3. The Secretary may request assistance from such departments, agencies, officers, or instrumentalities of the United States as the Secretary deems necessary to carry out the purposes of this proclamation. Such departments, agencies, officers, or instrumentalities shall, consistent with other provisions of law and to the extent practicable, provide requested assistance.

Sec. 4. The Secretary may seek assistance from State and local authorities in carrying out the purposes of this proclamation. Because State and local assistance may be essential for an effective response to this emergency, I urge all State and local officials to cooperate with Federal authorities and to take all actions within their lawful authority necessary to prevent the unauthorized departure of vessels intending to enter Cuban territorial waters.

Sec. 5. All powers and authorities delegated by this proclamation to the Secretary may be delegated by the Secretary to other officers and agents of the United States Government unless otherwise prohibited by law.