

Statement on Signing the Eleventh Continuing Resolution

March 22, 1996

Today I have signed into law H.J. Res. 165, the eleventh continuing resolution for fiscal 1996.

House Joint Resolution 165 provides for a temporary extension of appropriations—March 23 through March 29—for activities funded in four of the five appropriations bills that have not been enacted into law. For AFDC/Foster Care, funding is provided through April 3 to avoid disruption of payments to States, which are normally made on the first of each month. The District of Columbia receives no new Federal funds, but retains authority to use local funds.

The reason that I must sign yet another continuing resolution is that the Congress still has not passed five of this year's appropriations bills in acceptable form. If I do not sign this measure the Government will shut down for a third time.

Six months through the fiscal year, almost three-quarters of the nondefense budget of the Federal Government is being provided through this continuing resolution rather than through enactment of freestanding appropriations bills. For the sake of school districts and others who depend on these funds, this cannot continue. As we work to balance the budget and control discretionary spending, we must protect our Nation's investments in education, the environment, law enforcement, and technology.

Therefore, I urge the Congress to send me legislation for the remaining fiscal 1996 appropriations bills in acceptable form, and to do so before it adjourns for the Easter recess. We must work to resolve our differences over this legislation. I am committed to doing so.

William J. Clinton

The White House,
March 22, 1996.

NOTE: H.J. Res. 165, approved March 22, was assigned Public Law No. 104-118.

Joint Statement by France, United Kingdom, and the United States on the South Pacific Nuclear Free Zone Treaty

March 22, 1996

The governments of the French Republic, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United States of America will sign on Monday, March 25, 1996 the three additional protocols to the South Pacific Nuclear Free Zone Treaty, which is also known as the Treaty of Rarotonga.

Last year's NPT Review and Extension Conference agreed that internationally recognized nuclear weapon free zones, based on arrangements freely arrived at among the states of the region concerned, enhance international peace and security. The Conference also agreed that the cooperation of all the nuclear weapon states and their respect and support for the relevant protocols is necessary for the maximum effectiveness of such zones and the relevant protocols.

Our decision to sign the protocols to the Treaty of Rarotonga demonstrates our clear support for a nuclear weapon free zone in the South Pacific.

It is also an important further milestone in demonstrating our commitment to nuclear nonproliferation.

It underlines our wish to see a permanent end to nuclear testing throughout the world. It will give a further boost to the negotiations for a comprehensive test ban treaty, which we believe should be completed in the first half of 1996.

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this statement.

Statement on the Farm Bill

March 22, 1996

I have reviewed the work of the conferees on the farm bill. While I strongly favor some aspects of the final bill, I have very serious reservations about it.

However, farmers need to know the conditions under which they are operating as they head out into their fields in the coming weeks, and the hour is growing late. For that

reason, I will, with some reluctance, sign this bill when Congress presents it to me. Let me be clear: I am firmly committed to working with Congress next year to strengthen the farm safety net, and I plan to propose legislation to do so.

I am especially disappointed that the bill does not provide as strong a safety net for family farmers as it should. It provides fixed payments without regard to whether farmers are receiving adequate income from the market, yet leaves farmers without protection in the event of natural disasters or other circumstances that sharply reduce their income.

I am pleased that the bill provides significant funds for conservation and environmental enhancement programs and that it will channel additional needed funds to rural development and agricultural research programs through the Fund for Rural America. The bill also reauthorizes nutrition programs for another 2 years and gives farmers the planting flexibility they need to plant for the market, not for Government programs.

I look forward to working with Congress next year in a process that involves all interested groups to make this a truly farmer-friendly farm bill.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

March 18

In the morning, the President traveled to New Orleans, LA. In the afternoon, he traveled to Leesville, where he met at Fort Polk with family members of U.S. troops who are serving in Bosnia. In the early evening, the President traveled to Alexandria, LA, where he attended a performance of the musical drama "Messiah" at the United Pentecostal Church. He then returned to Washington, DC.

The President announced his intention to nominate Christopher Robert Hill as Amba-

sador to the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, George Ward, Jr., as Ambassador to Namibia, and Sharon P. Wilkinson as Ambassador to Burkina Faso.

March 19

The President announced his intention to nominate Dane Farnsworth Smith as Ambassador to Senegal.

The President announced his intention to nominate Gina McDonald to the National Council on Disability.

The President declared a major disaster in the State of Oregon and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms and high winds on December 10-12, 1995.

March 20

In the morning, the President met with congressional leaders in the Oval Office to discuss the budget negotiations.

The President declared a major disaster in the State of Alabama and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms, flooding, and tornadoes on March 5-6.

March 21

In the afternoon, the President attended a meeting with National Security Adviser Anthony Lake and Ian Paisley, leader of Northern Ireland's Democratic Unionist Party, in the National Security Adviser's office.

The President announced his intention to appoint Brady C. Williamson to be Chair and a member of the National Bankruptcy Review Commission.

The President announced his intention to appoint Alfred Gottschalk and Nathan Shapell to the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council.

The President announced his intention to nominate Genta Hawkins Holmes as Ambassador to Australia, Kenneth C. Brill as Ambassador to Cyprus, Day Olin Mount as Ambassador to Iceland, Glen Robert Rase as Ambassador to Brunei Darussalam, and Thomas C. Hubbard as Ambassador to the Philippines and Palau.

March 22

The President announced his intention to nominate Lino Gutierrez as Ambassador to Nicaragua, Dennis K. Hays as Ambassador