

Nation on the path of conservation. In 1908 he said, "Any right-thinking parent earnestly desires and strives to leave a child both an untarnished name and a reasonable equipment for the struggle of life. So this Nation as a whole should earnestly desire and struggle to leave to the next generation the national honor unstained and the national resources unexhausted." It sounded good in 1908, and it's even more important as we stand on the edge of a new century.

Let me say that I consider that I was very lucky as a child to have the privilege of being raised in a national park. My hometown is the only city in America that actually contains a national park, Hot Springs National Park. And I grew up in a State where more than half the land was covered by forests. I took for granted things that many children in our cities never, ever see.

And frankly, I had to grow up a little before I realized that none of that could be taken for granted. And a lot of people along the way had a big influence on me; the most recent, of course, is the Vice President. But since he's here today I want to thank my senior Senator, Dale Bumpers, who has been one of the most courageous conservationists and environmentalists for the last 25 years in America. Thank you. He taught me by the power of example that Governors have a responsibility to the environment as well.

And so I say to all of you, there's something for each of us to do. But the remarkable resurgence in support for clean air, for clean water, for a safe environment in our urban areas as well as our rural areas, for standing up for our national parks, that has not come from those of us in public life. Fundamentally, it has come from those of you who are the citizens who live in our neighborhoods and walk our streets and climb our mountains and walk our trails day-in and day-out. You have given America back its soul, its conscience, and its commitment on the environment. And don't ever give up your responsibility for doing that.

So on this Earth Day, as we stand beneath the eagle in this wonderful treasure that we have been given, let us vow that there is more to do. None of our children should have to live near a toxic waste dump or eat food poisoned by pesticides. Our grandchildren

should not have to live in a world stripped of its natural beauty. We can and we must protect the environment while advancing the prosperity of the American people and people throughout the world.

When it comes to protecting the environment, we can't turn back. We have to go forward, and it has to become a part of our every decision as a people. If we make that commitment and stick to it, then America will have a bright future indeed.

Thank you all, and God bless you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:18 p.m. at the observation deck at Great Falls National Park. In his remarks, he referred to Anthony Hildebrandt of Boy Scout Troop 241, and Ashley King of the Girl Scout Council of the Nation's Capital.

Memorandum on Public-Private Partnerships for Protection of the National Parks

April 22, 1996

Memorandum for the Heads of Executive Departments and Agencies

Subject: Facilitating Public-Private Partnerships for Protection of the National Parks

Many important efforts are already underway in which the private sector works in partnership with government to protect or maintain public lands. These include the work of the National Park Foundation, an organization created by the Congress in 1967 to receive private gifts and make disbursements to benefit the parks; cooperative agreements between the private sector and State and local parks to share resources and equipment and to provide valuable services, including maintenance services, to the parks; and agreements with willing private parties to acquire conservation easements. In an effort to ensure that the public-private partnerships that can enhance park protection and maintenance are as effective as possible, I hereby direct the following action:

1. The Secretary of the Interior is to provide to me, within 30 days, a specific proposal for ways in which the National Park Foundation's role in fostering public-private partnerships on behalf of the parks can be invig-

orated through either administrative or legislative action.

2. The Secretary of the Interior is to provide to me a legislative proposal that would make permanently available to the National Park System the authority to enter into cooperative agreements on behalf of the parks. This proposal should be consistent with the temporary authority that would be provided by enactment of my 1997 budget proposal as submitted to the Congress.

3. The Secretary of the Interior is to provide a report to me within 6 months on options for preserving historic structures within National Parks. This report should consider the possibilities for partnerships with businesses, associations, and individuals in the private sector.

4. The Secretary of the Interior shall work with the Congress to pass legislation that would allow the implementation of the 1995 National Park Service study to protect vistas surrounding Point Reyes National Seashore, California, while retaining existing private uses through actions including the purchase of conservation easements from willing private sellers. The Secretary of the Interior shall also give priority to funding such purchases from existing funds should authorization for such purchases be enacted. In addition, to the extent permitted by law and within existing budget authority, the Secretary shall exercise his existing authority to make a minor boundary adjustment as necessary to carry out the purposes of the National Park Service study to add property to Point Reyes National Seashore prior to enactment of such legislation, and to make available an amount of funds not to exceed \$1 million to purchase such property from willing sellers.

This memorandum shall be published in the *Federal Register*.

William J. Clinton

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., April 24, 1996]

NOTE: This memorandum was published in the *Federal Register* on April 25.

Memorandum on Transportation Planning to Address Impacts of Transportation on National Parks

April 22, 1996

Memorandum for the Heads of Executive Departments and Agencies

Subject: Additional Transportation Planning to Address Impacts of Transportation on National Parks

Transportation in national parks—including ground transportation of visitors into the parks and airplane flights over the parks—has a significant impact on a visitor's experience of the park and on park management. The Secretary of Transportation has both valuable expertise and regulatory authority to address certain of these issues, and has been working on them with the Secretary of the Interior and others.

Aircraft flying at low altitudes over national parks can, if not properly managed, mar the natural beauty of the parks and create significant noise problems as well. The intrusion of such aircraft can interfere with wildlife (including threatened and endangered species), cultural resources and ceremonies, and visitors' enjoyment of parks, including the ability to experience natural sounds without interruption from mechanical noise. Several parks face overflight problems, including Grand Canyon National Park where substantial restoration of natural quiet is mandated by law, and several others identified by the National Park Service (NPS). It is important to the future of parks to address these problems quickly and in a fair and reasonable manner.

In addition, the National Park System contains thousands of miles of roads. All too often in peak visitor periods roads are so crowded with cars that the congestion and competition for space diminish the quality of the public's experience. Parks are not too full of people, but the roads and parking areas often are jammed. With modern technology and alternative transportation systems, the parks can continue to be accessible to all, and can be more enjoyable places to experience and learn about nature and history.

Therefore, to the extent permitted by law, I hereby direct the Secretary of Transportation in consultation with the heads of rel-