

taking for education for all Americans? [Applause]

I want you to be clear about that. Your vote is going to decide whether we continue to expand access to college and student loans or whether we eliminate the Department of Education, cut college aid, and tell our young people to fend for themselves. I don't know what all the family circumstances of all those young people in the band are over there, but I know one thing: All of us will be better off if every single one of them, without regard to their family income, can get a college education. And I want you to help me do that.

I want you to help me make sure we have an America in 4 years at the dawn of a new century where every 8-year-old can read, every 12-year-old can log on to the Internet, and every 18-year-old in America can go on to college. We just have 2 weeks and a day. Will you help me for 2 weeks and a day build that bridge to the 21st century? [Applause]

Thank you, and God bless you all. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:20 a.m. on the Campus Green. In his remarks, he referred to Jerry Sue Thornton, president, Cuyahoga Community College; Mayor Gerald M. Boldt of Parma, OH; Dennis Kucinich, Democratic congressional candidate; Mayor Thomas J. Coyne, Jr., of Brookpark, OH; State Representative Jane L. Campbell; David Leland, chair, Ohio Democratic Party; and Mayor Jimmy Dimora of Bedford Heights, OH.

Remarks at the Ground-Breaking Ceremony for Expansion of the Detroit Metropolitan Wayne County Airport in Detroit, Michigan

October 21, 1996

Thank you. Thank you very much. When Al Checchi started telling that story about Herb Kelleher, who is a mutual friend of ours, meeting the head of Wild Turkey whiskey company, I couldn't tell whether he was comparing Ed McNamara to God, to whiskey, or to a wild turkey. [Laughter] But I have—I will pay for that at a later point. [Laughter]

Ladies and gentlemen, many people have been thanked today, but I want to say a special word of thanks to the Members of Congress who have personally lobbied me in behalf of this project and, in particular, your friend Senator Carl Levin, Congressman John Dingell, who has a way of being insistent himself—[laughter]—Congressman John Conyers and Congressman David Bonior who are here and one who is not here, Congresswoman Lynn Rivers. I thank them very much for the work they did personally with me in Washington.

I want to thank Alfred Checchi for the brilliant job he has done in turning Northwest Airlines around, along with John Dasburg and others, and the work they did to make this possible. It's a real tribute to the ability of American enterprise to compete in the areas that will dominate the 21st century.

I want to thank Secretary Peña for the work that he has done to make sure that even in a time when we reduced the deficit in all 4 years for the first time in the 20th century, at a time when we were permitting Government spending to grow more slowly than it has in the last 12 years, we still were able to invest more in the infrastructure of America, in no small measure because of the innovation and the partnerships that Federico Peña did a lot to help to design and carry out. And since he was the mayor of Denver before he became Secretary of Transportation, we all know that he believes in building modern airports. [Laughter]

I'd also like to thank Mayor Archer for so many things. But the last time I checked, the unemployment rate in the city of Detroit was half what it was 4 years ago, thanks in no small measure to the work that Detroit did in securing the empowerment zone, to the \$2 billion in private sector capital that were committed to it, and to the genuine spirit of partnership and cooperation which Dennis Archer has fostered. And I thank him for that.

But most important, I want to thank my friend Ed McNamara. I'll tell you a story about Ed. Not so very long ago when the question of the last \$150 million was hanging fire, he put his big old arm around me and he looked at me with those big sort of half happy, half sad eyes of his, and I thought,

I'm going to get another one of this Irish bull that's coming up—[inaudible]. [Laughter] And he said, "Have I always been your friend?" [Laughter] I said, "Yes." He said, "Was I there before almost everyone else?" [Laughter] I said, "Yes." He said, "Didn't Jim Blanchard bring you to me first?" I said, "Yes." He said, "Have I ever asked you for anything, anything?" I said, "No." He said, "I want that airport—now." [Laughter] Senator Blanchard was nodding his head up and down; he knows that's true.

So this is a great day for Wayne County; it's a great day for the State of Michigan. The idea that we could invest here from all sources \$1.6 billion to generate an annual impact of \$2.7 billion says more than I ever could about the importance of creating a modern economy that will generate high-wage jobs, that is tied to the rest of America and the rest of the world.

Senator Levin said that together all of us working hard in the United States have produced 10½ million more jobs over the last 4 years. The thing that I'm proudest of is that the typical family income has gone up \$1,600 after inflation in the last few years, in part because more than half of these jobs are in high-wage industries. We have to keep that trend going. For 20 years, Americans worked harder and harder and harder just to keep up, just to hold on. The average American family today is spending more hours at work and less time with their kids than they did in 1969. We have begun to turn that trend around.

So this is not only going to be exciting, it will not only change the life and the face of Wayne County and Michigan forever in creating more new jobs, it will create better jobs, and it will enable more and more people in Michigan not only to have access to that exciting world that's out there but also to build more successful family lives, to succeed at work and at home. So that this project today, yes, it will advance the pocket-books and the incomes of the people whose jobs will come into being as a result of it, but it will also improve the quality of life for virtually every person in this entire region who is affected in any way by the way the economy is changing, so that change will be working for not only the working people but

the families and the children of Michigan in the future instead of undermining those family values and what we all want. And that is, to me, perhaps the best news of this announcement today. And I thank all of you who worked on it to make it possible.

The unemployment in this State has dropped from about 7½ to about 4½ percent over the last 4 years. We now have to focus on the long term, on investing in our future and building that bridge to the 21st century I talk so much about. Air travel is an important part of it.

One of the things Mr. Checchi did not say because he was perhaps too modest, but I want to emphasize that one of the areas that America enjoys an unquestionable global lead in, where no other nation can come close, is in the quality and competitiveness and price of air service in the United States. Whether it is commercial service or people on tourist ventures and trips or carrying cargo, there is no one in the world to compete with the competitive airlines of the United States.

People were writing our airline industry off when I became President. We had a special commission to talk about what we could do to rebuild the airlines. I believe it is accurate to say that last year and this year, every major airline company in America will turn a profit and is helping to forge the kind of partnerships we need to build that 21st century economy, where every single person will have a chance to live up to the fullest of his or her own abilities and where people really will have a chance to build successful careers and strong families in good communities. That's what turning this dirt means today. It is a very great day. And all of you should be very grateful to the leaders here who have worked so hard to make it happen.

Thank you, and God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 4:40 p.m. In his remarks, he referred to Alfred A. Checchi, co-chairman, and John Dasburg, president and CEO, Northwest Airlines; Herb Kelleher, chairman and president, Southwest Airlines; and Edward H. McNamara, Wayne County executive.

Proclamation 6944—National Forest Products Week, 1996

October 21, 1996

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

For much of our Nation's history, forests, like other natural resources, were considered inexhaustible. In this century, we began to recognize that forests are a precious birthright for all Americans—not only for us and for our children, but also for future generations. As part of this recognition, we observe National Forest Products Week.

Forests are an important source of fuel and building materials, and they provide many valuable jobs. They also offer us unmatched recreational environments, as well as a spiritual refuge from city life. They provide essential habitat for myriad species of plants and animals, including hundreds that are endangered or threatened. Increasingly, their trees, shrubs, herbs, fungi, and microorganisms are yielding new and wondrous medicinal products and foods. And thanks to better planning and resource management that replace harvested lands with new forests, thousands of Americans will continue to earn their livelihood from our Nation's forests, even as we protect them. Today, the same citizens who are reaping the forests' bounty are personally and professionally involved in efforts to preserve it for future generations.

Government, citizens, and the forestry industry now work hand-in-hand in a new cooperative stewardship that emphasizes healthy, diverse, and sustainable forests. Using the best available science and complying with all current environmental laws, we are examining past and present forest management practices to find the best mix of resource use, conservation, and recycling that will ensure continued productivity. America must promote environmental responsibility and observe the highest possible standards of conservation to lead the way for other nations.

One of our most important tools in this endeavor is investment in forest research. Forest research is developing new wood products that extend raw material supplies,

new technologies to extract and process wood products with less waste and fewer harmful byproducts, and new ways of reducing demand for forest raw materials through recycling. It is also unlocking the potential of forests to provide new products that will benefit people. With proper care, these lands can remain healthy, diverse, and resilient, capable of sustaining the lives—human and animal—that are dependent on them.

In recognition of the central role forests play in the long-term welfare of our Nation, the Congress, by Public Law 86-753 (36 U.S.C. 163), has designated the week beginning on the third Sunday in October each year as "National Forest Products Week" and has authorized and requested the President to issue a proclamation in observance of this commemoration.

Now, Therefore, I, William J. Clinton, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim October 20 through October 26, 1996, as National Forest Products Week. I call upon the people of the United States to honor the vital role forests play in our national life and to observe this week with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-first day of October, 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 twenty-first.

William J. Clinton

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., October 22, 1996]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on October 23.

Proclamation 6945—National Consumers Week, 1996

October 21, 1996

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

This year's theme for National Consumers Week is "service signals success." Service is an indispensable element of success over the long term in both business and government: