

types of plans for retirement savings. Subsequent summits on savings will take place in 2001 and 2005.

My Administration will work to make sure that the summits help educate employers about the types of plans that are available, including traditional defined benefit pension plans, as well as a relatively new defined contribution plan that is especially designed for small businesses. The summits will also identify problems workers have setting aside money for retirement, and that employers have in assisting their workers to do so. Recommendations will be produced by the summits as to what the private and public sectors can do to promote pension and individual savings. I am particularly concerned about the savings of women, minority, and low- and moderate-income workers, for whom putting away money for retirement is often particularly difficult.

The SAVER Act calls for the public and private sectors to work together in planning and conducting the national summits on retirement income savings, which I will co-host with the congressional leadership of both parties. The Act also affirms the ongoing efforts of my Administration to promote retirement savings through public outreach by directing the Secretary of Labor to maintain and expand the Department's program of retirement savings education.

William J. Clinton

The White House,
November 20, 1997.

NOTE: H.R. 1377, approved November 19, was assigned Public Law No. 105-92.

**Statement on Signing the
Intelligence Authorization Act for
Fiscal Year 1998**

November 20, 1997

Today I have signed into law S. 858, the "Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1998." The Act authorizes appropriations for the intelligence-related activities of the United States during fiscal year 1998.

This Act results from the hard work of many people in the Administration and in the Congress who are dedicated to both a

strong national intelligence capability and effective congressional oversight.

I strongly endorse section 307, the basic objective of which is to ensure that, insofar as possible, the U.S. Government provides all relevant information to U.S. citizens (and their family members, as appropriate) who are the victims of violent crimes committed abroad. So that this provision cannot be construed to detract from my constitutional authority and responsibility to protect national security and other privileged information as I determine necessary, and so that the provision does not require the release of information that is properly classified, I direct that it be interpreted consistent with my constitutional authority and with applicable laws and executive orders.

William J. Clinton

The White House,
November 20, 1997.

NOTE: S. 858, approved November 20, was assigned Public Law No. 105-107.

**Letter to Congressional Leaders
Transmitting the Line Item Vetoes of
the Department of the Interior and
Related Agencies Appropriations
Act, 1998**

November 20, 1997

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

In accordance with the Line Item Veto Act, I hereby cancel the dollar amounts of discretionary budget authority, as specified in the attached reports, contained in the "Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1998" (H.R. 2107). I have determined that the cancellation of these amounts will reduce the Federal budget deficit, will not impair any essential Government functions, and will not harm the national interest. This letter, together with its attachments, constitutes a special message under section 1022 of the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974, as amended.

Sincerely,

William J. Clinton

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to Newt Gingrich, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Albert Gore, Jr., President of the Senate. The reports detailing the cancellation were published in the *Federal Register* on November 24.

**Letter to Congressional Leaders
Transmitting the Line Item Vetoes of
the Agriculture, Rural Development,
Food and Drug Administration, and
Related Agencies Appropriations
Act, 1998**

November 20, 1997

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

In accordance with the Line Item Veto Act, I hereby cancel the dollar amounts of discretionary budget authority, as specified in the attached reports, contained in the "Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1998" (H.R. 2160). I have determined that the cancellation of these amounts will reduce the Federal budget deficit, will not impair any essential Government functions, and will not harm the national interest. This letter, together with its attachments, constitutes a special message under section 1022 of the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974, as amended.

Sincerely,

William J. Clinton

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to Newt Gingrich, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Albert Gore, Jr., President of the Senate. The reports detailing the cancellation were published in the *Federal Register* on November 21.

**Remarks on Signing the Food and
Drug Administration Modernization
Act of 1997**

November 21, 1997

Thank you very much. After Secretary Shalala made you all laugh, she reminded me that she has to go catch a plane. She's going on a trip to Asia, and she's winding up in Butung. She said, "You know, some people

think Butung is the most beautiful place in the world, and the King is there, and he's got four wives, and they're all sisters." And she said, "I wonder if he'd like four and a half." [Laughter] I thought the private joke was even better than the public one, so I thought I'd give credit.

Let me, first of all, thank the Vice President and his reinventing Government staff for the work that they have done on the FDA and Secretary Shalala and all the people at HHS and Sally Katzen and the people at OMB and folks in the White House, the industry leaders who are here. But let me especially thank the Members of Congress, all those who are here and at least two who are not, Congressman Bliley and Congressman Dingell, for the work that—this really astonishing work.

It was a 2-year process. This bill passed by a voice vote in both Houses. And yet it is a very significant overhaul in the work of the Food and Drug Administration. It also, it seems to me, is symbolic of what we should be doing as a country.

The FDA, which was created under Theodore Roosevelt, as the Vice President said, is really, I think, one of the signal achievements of the Progressive Era. Why was it necessary? Because more and more people were moving from the farm to the city and making a living in factories, and instead of consuming the food that they raised on their own farms, they had to go down and buy the food from somebody else. And more and more people had access to doctors, and doctors had access to medicine that was being discovered that they couldn't know everything about. So somebody needed to say, "Hey, this medicine is okay. We've tested it. It's okay. You can give it to your patients in Iowa or Oregon or Arizona or Alabama."

And so a whole new world of possibility opened when people could move from farm to factory and when people could have access to a doctor when they couldn't see one before. But there needed to be someone who said, here's the public interest in trying to make sure the food is safe and the drugs are safe, and they do what they're supposed to do.