

Weekly Compilation of
**Presidential
Documents**



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Editor’s Note: The President was in San Jose, CA, on May 1, the closing date of this issue. Releases and announcements issued by the Office of the Press Secretary but not received in time for inclusion in this issue will be printed next week.

WEEKLY COMPILATION OF PRESIDENTIAL DOCUMENTS

Published every Monday by the Office of the Federal Register, National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, DC 20408, the *Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents* contains statements, messages, and other Presidential materials released by the White House during the preceding week.

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Week Ending Friday, May 1, 1998

**Message on the Observance of
Armenian Remembrance Day, 1998**

April 24, 1998

This year, as in the past, we join with Armenian-Americans throughout the nation in commemorating one of the saddest chapters in the history of this century, the deportations and massacres of a million and a half Armenians in the Ottoman Empire in the years 1915–1923.

This painful event from the past also serves as a powerful lesson for the future: that man's inhumanity to man must not be tolerated, and that evil cannot conquer. The Armenian people have endured, surviving the ravages of two World Wars and seven decades of Soviet rule. Throughout the world, and especially in this country, Armenians have contributed to the material, intellectual and spiritual lives of their adopted homes. Today's Armenians are building a free and independent nation that stands as a living tribute to all those who died.

The United States will continue working to preserve a free Armenia in a peaceful, stable and prosperous Caucasus region. In that spirit, I extend to all Armenians my best wishes on Remembrance Day in the fervent hope that those who died will never be forgotten.

William J. Clinton

NOTE: This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue. An original was not available for verification of the content of this message.

The President's Radio Address

April 25, 1998

Good morning. This morning I'd like to talk to you about one way we are working to restore Americans' faith in our National Government, in our efforts to shore up Social

Security and other vital benefits by cracking down on fraud and abuse.

For 60 years, Social Security has meant more than just an ID number on a tax form, even more than a monthly check in the mail. It has reflected our deepest values, the duties we owe to our parents, to each other, to our children and grandchildren, to those whom misfortune strikes, to those who deserve a decent old age, to our ideal of one America.

That's why I was so disturbed some time ago to discover that many prisoners who are, by law, barred from receiving most of these Federal benefits, were actually collecting Social Security checks while locked up behind bars. Inmates were, in effect, under our law, getting away with fraud, primarily because it was so difficult to gather up-to-date information on criminals in our Nation's more than 3,500 jails. But thanks to an unprecedented Federal, State, and local cooperation, as well as new, innovative incentive programs, we're now finishing the job.

The Social Security Administration has produced a continually updated database that now covers more than 99 percent of all prisoners, the most comprehensive list of our inmate population in history. And more important, the Social Security Administration is using the list to great effect. By the end of last year we had suspended benefits to more than 70,000 prisoners. That means that over the next 5 years we will save taxpayers \$2.5 billion—that's \$2.5 billion—that will go toward serving our hard-working families.

Now we're going to build on the Social Security Administration's success in saving taxpayers from inmate fraud. In just a few moments I will sign an executive memorandum that directs the Departments of Labor, Veterans Affairs, Justice, Education, and Agriculture to use the Social Security Administration's expertise and high-tech tools to enhance their own efforts to weed out any inmate who is receiving veteran's benefits, food

stamps, or any other form of Federal benefit denied by law.

We expect that these comprehensive sweeps by our agencies will save taxpayers millions upon millions of more dollars, in addition to the billions already saved from our crackdown on Social Security fraud. We will ensure that those who have committed crimes against society will not have an opportunity to commit crimes against taxpayers as well.

The American people have a right to expect that their National Government is always on guard against every type of waste, fraud, and abuse. It is our duty to use every power and every tool to eliminate that kind of fraud. We owe it to the American people to ensure that their Social Security contributions and other tax dollars are benefiting only those who worked hard, played by the rules, and are, by law, eligible to receive them. That's exactly what we're trying to do.

Thanks for listening.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:06 a.m. from the Oval Office at the White House.

Memorandum on Prevention of Prison Inmates Inappropriately Receiving Federal Benefits

April 25, 1998

Memorandum for the Heads of Executive Departments and Agencies

Subject: Use of the Social Security Administration's Prisoner Database to Prevent Prison Inmates from Inappropriately Receiving Federal Benefits

The Social Security Administration ("SSA") is required by law to suspend Old Age and Survivors and Disability Insurance or Supplemental Security Income benefits to certain persons who are incarcerated. To carry out the law, the SSA, with the assistance of the Federal Bureau of Prisons and various State and local entities, developed a database of persons who are incarcerated. Other agencies, too, including the Departments of Agriculture, Education, Labor, and Veterans Affairs, operate Federal benefit programs that have statutory requirements to

reduce, suspend, or terminate benefits to those who are incarcerated.

All of these agencies have been carrying out the requirements to suspend or reduce Federal benefits to prison inmates. However, the agencies' enforcement of these requirements independently, rather than in coordination, is not the most efficient use of Government resources and has not allowed the agencies to enforce these requirements to the greatest effect. Therefore, to provide for a coordinated governmentwide effort to improve the implementation of the laws permitting suspension or reduction of Federal benefits to prison inmates and to use Government resources more efficiently, I hereby direct executive departments and agencies to take the following actions, to the extent permitted by law:

(1) By November 1, 1998, the Social Security Administration shall provide access to its prisoner database, on a reimbursable basis, to Federal agencies that administer benefit programs and to appropriate State and local entities that administer benefit programs in cooperation with Federal agencies. The SSA shall assist these agencies as necessary to allow quick and efficient access to the SSA prisoner database. By May 1, 1999, the agencies should make operational their computer systems that are to conduct the matches between their benefit program databases and the SSA prisoner database;

(2) The Departments of Education, Labor, and Veterans Affairs and Food Stamp agencies acting as agents for the Department of Agriculture, shall conduct matches between their benefit program databases and SSA's prisoner database to identify ineligible recipients of benefits on their benefit rosters. Agencies that have begun to conduct matches of their benefit program databases with SSA's prisoner database or other agencies' databases shall continue that work;

(3) Other executive agencies with benefit programs shall review such programs and determine whether it is appropriate and cost effective to conduct a match of their benefit program databases with the SSA prisoner database;

(4) Based on their matches with the SSA prisoner database, agencies that identify ineligible recipients shall immediately take action to suspend, reduce, or terminate benefits as permitted by law; and

(5) The agencies shall work with the Commissioner of Social Security and State and local governments, where appropriate, and take whatever actions are practicable to carry out this memorandum. The Commissioner of Social Security shall report to me within 180 days on the actions the SSA and other agencies have taken to implement this memorandum.

I believe that this coordinated governmentwide approach to terminating, suspending, or reducing Federal benefits to prison inmates will more fully carry out the intention of the Federal laws restricting payment of benefits to prison inmates and will provide savings in Federal benefit programs.

William J. Clinton

**Remarks at the White House
Correspondents' Association Dinner
April 25, 1998**

Thank you very much. Thank you, Mr. McQuillan, Mr. Powell. Good evening, ladies and gentlemen.

As you know, I have been traveling to other lands quite a lot lately, and I just want to say what a pleasure it is for Hillary and me to be here in your country. [Laughter] Since I arrived here—[laughter]—I've been awestruck by the beauty of your landscape, the spirit of your people, the color of your native garb. [Laughter]

Now, the crowds who greet me here are not quite as adoring as in other nations I've visited lately—[laughter]—but they seem occasionally friendly, nonetheless. I've even sampled some of your indigenous cuisine, your hamburgers, quite tasty, sort of a meat sandwich. [Laughter]

It appears that democracy is thriving here. There are regular elections, contested with vigor, honored by some—[laughter]. In the legislature, persistent coup attempts so far have failed to upend the balance of power. [Laughter] You have a lively, independent press, confident in its judgment and bold in

its predictions. [Laughter] And persistent, I might add.

Yes, this Washington is a very special place, and Hillary and I will never forget our visit here. [Laughter]

Now, as I have come to do on these tours, I want to take just a few moments to reflect on our shared history. The past decades, indeed centuries, are filled with regrettable incidents. Mistakes were made. [Laughter] Injustices were committed. And certainly the passive tense was used too much. [Laughter]

Ladies and gentlemen, I regret so much—I regret our long neglect of the planet Pluto. [Laughter] It took until 1930—1930—to welcome Pluto into the community of planets, and that was wrong. [Laughter] And I am so sorry about disco. [Laughter] That whole era of leisure suits and beanbag chairs and lava lamps—I mean, we all had to endure the cheesiness of the seventies, and that was wrong. [Laughter]

Then there's the Susan B. Anthony dollar. [Laughter] It did look too much like a quarter. And that was wrong. [Laughter] The expression, "happy campers." Oh, it was cute the first couple of times, but it got real old real fast. [Laughter] I recently used it at a Cabinet meeting, and that was wrong. [Laughter] Pineapple on pizza—some things are just wrong. [Laughter]

I'd also, in this moment of cleansing, like to take just a moment to reflect on past treatment of the White House press corps. I apologize for the quality of the free food you've been served over the years. [Laughter] At the price, you deserved better. It was wrong. [Laughter] For many years when the space that is now the briefing room in the White House was a swimming pool, reporters had to tread water for hours on end. [Laughter] And that was wrong—sort of. [Laughter]

And I'd really like to apologize for all the information you've had to attribute to anonymous sources over the years. Of course, that apology has to be off the record, and for that I am truly sorry. [Laughter] But now that we have put the issues of the past behind us, I really would like to thank you for inviting me to tonight's dinner. This is the night I get to poke fun at you. That is my definition of executive privilege. [Laughter]

Now, I'm at a little bit of a disadvantage this year. I've been so busy I haven't read a newspaper or a magazine or even watched the evening news since the Pope went to Cuba. [Laughter] What have you been writing about since then? [Laughter] I hardly have any time to read the news anymore. Mostly, I just skim the retractions. [Laughter] I've even stopped watching McCurry's briefing; I mean, he never answers a single question. [Laughter] I don't know how you put up with it. I've told him again and again and again he can answer any question he wants. [Laughter] What has he told you about that? [Laughter]

Seriously, I have been looking so much forward to seeing all of you this weekend. I just want to know one thing: How come there's no table for Salon Magazine? [Laughter] That's supposed to be funny; don't take yourselves so seriously. [Laughter] You'll see the light. Don't worry about it. Loosen up. [Laughter]

One of the things I like about this dinner is that as big as it is, it's a lot smaller and more intimate than the White House Pundits Dinner. [Laughter] I don't have anything against political pundits, mind you. Some of my best friends used to be political pundits, and some political pundits used to be my best friends. [Laughter]

Really, I'm just here to warm the audience up for Ray Romano. I feel ambivalent about it. He's the star of a show called "Everybody Loves Raymond." Everybody loves Raymond? I can't stand a guy with 100 percent approval rating. [Laughter]

I do want to congratulate the winners tonight, Earl Lane and Andrew Smith, Mike Frisby, Ron Fournier, Peter Maer. I'd like to say something to Mike Frisby: Now that you've won this award, I think you ought to slow down, work a little less, try to enjoy the finer things of life. [Laughter]

And to Ron Fournier—you know, I honestly believe Ron Fournier is the only person who came to Washington with me from Arkansas who hasn't been subpoenaed. [Laughter] But the night is still young. [Laughter]

I'm also happy to see that Peter Maer is getting an award tonight for his excellent work. I was worried, since he was nearly mauled by a cheetah on our Africa trip, you

probably ought to be giving him the Purple Heart. Now, come on, could you write a joke about Peter Maer? A little laugh there. [Laughter]

It was reported on our trip that Sam Donaldson scared away a herd of elephants with his distinctive voice. [Laughter] That is not fair. Elephants are very smart. The elephants knew Sam works for Disney; they thought he was trying to round them up for a new theme park. [Laughter]

This has been an extraordinary few months for the White House press corps. It's no wonder you've been swarming around the White House; there's nothing to cover on Capitol Hill. [Laughter] Now, listen to this. All over, TV executives are asking, what can possibly fill the gaping hole on Thursday night once Seinfeld goes off the air? I've got it; Congress on C-SPAN. Now, there's a show about nothing. [Laughter] Not that there is anything wrong with that, mind you. There's nothing wrong with that. [Laughter]

There are barely 40 days left in the 105th Congress as of tonight. This is a Congress with nothing to do and no time to do it in. [Laughter] But there will be one news item coming out of Capitol Hill next week. I met with Senator John Glenn recently to decide who should be the next distinguished Member of Congress hurled into the far reaches of the universe. [Laughter] And we have our man. Godspeed, Dick Arme. [Laughter]

On Tuesday, Speaker Gingrich is holding a press conference to proclaim that Tony the Tiger is not selling Frosted Flakes to children. [Laughter] Last week he said the movie "Titanic" glorified smoking. I couldn't believe it. This week he'll accuse it of glorifying drowning. [Laughter] You know, this is a—it gets funnier if you think about it. [Laughter]

For all of you who do not live in Washington, let me ask you to make some allowances for all of us tonight. This is a unique and rather unsettling moment in Washington. I'm not the only one who is anxiously awaiting the release of Steve Brill's new magazine. I have an advance copy here. See? It's called, "Content." [Laughter] Now, why would anyone want to call a magazine about the news media that? Oh, McCurry says it's called, "Content." Why would anyone want to call

a magazine about the news media that? [Laughter]

Anyway, you might be interested in what's going to be in the first edition. I have it here, the table of contents: Makeover tips, by John King. [Laughter] George Mitchell writes about the prospects of lasting peace between Barbara Walters and Diane Sawyer. [Laughter] "Six Lip-Smacking Summertime Recipes for Harvest Burgers," by David Brinkley. [Laughter] A retrospective: CBS News, from Murrow to Molinari. [Laughter] "Buddy Got What He Deserved," by Maureen Dowd. [Laughter] Here's an article called, "Waiting in the Wings," co-written by Al Gore and Brian Williams. [Laughter] I think they're both going to make it. Here's Lanny Davis' review of "Spin Cycle." He liked it. [Laughter]

Now, I've got to say one thing. You know, this book, "Spin Cycle," it implies that this Kabuki dance between the White House and the press is some kind of a recent phenomenon. That's not true. It is a cherished part of our history. Just in preparation for tonight, I had the National Archives send over some yellowed transcripts to make this point. For example, here's some good news from the Hoover administration: Housing starts were up in the third quarter of 1931. [Laughter] Said a senior adviser to the President, "These Hooverilles reflect a commitment to private initiative instead of paternalistic big Government. The President is proud they bear his name." [Laughter]

Then in 1814 a White House official disputed the idea that the burning of the White House was a setback for the Madison administration. [Laughter] "Yes, fire did consume the mansion," he said, "but it was in desperate need of renovation anyway—[laughter]—and this salutary effort by the British actually saves us time and taxpayers' money." [Laughter]

Here's one from the Jefferson administration in 1804. A spokesman for Vice President Aaron Burr asserted, "People don't kill people, guns kill people." [Laughter] Way back in 1773 a spokesman for Samuel Adams asserted unequivocally that the Boston Tea Party was not a fundraiser. [Laughter] "No one paid to attend; there was no quid pro

quo," he said. "The party was just a town meeting for colonists to get to know each other and discuss details of the new tax law."

Well, we've been at this a long time. Helen ought to know; she was there. [Laughter]

Let me say one serious thing: Helen Thomas is not just the longest serving White House correspondent. One of the reasons she got that award tonight in her name is that she's still the hardest working, the first to show up in the Press Office every morning about 5 o'clock, 5 days a week, for nearly 40 years. And I dare say tonight is the first time she has ever been completely scooped. By my calculation, she's had about 10,000 mornings, thousands of notebooks, thousands of ballpoint pens, thousands of cups of coffee—sometimes brought to her by White House staffers—never has it compromised her yet.

For all of us in the White House, she is a rock. For everyone here tonight, obviously a symbol of everything American journalism can and should be: the embodiment of fearless integrity, fierce commitment to accuracy, the insistence upon holding Government accountable. All of that in the spirit of the first amendment and the free press it protects.

Helen, by tradition, you always get to ask the first question at the press conference. This has been a rather long opening statement, but to honor the tradition tonight you can ask me anything you want. But remember, in an even older tradition, I don't have to answer. [Laughter]

Thank you, and good night.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:26 p.m. in the International Ballroom at the Washington Hilton Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to Larry McQuillan of Reuters, outgoing president, and Stewart Powell of Hearst Newspapers, incoming president, White House Correspondents' Association; Earl Lane and Andrew Smith of Newsday, winners of the Edgar A. Poe Award; Michael K. Frisby, Wall Street Journal, winner of the Aldo Beckman Award for 1998; Ron Fournier, Associated Press, and Peter Maer, NBC Radio/Mutual News, winners of the Merriman Smith Memorial Award for 1998; Sam Donaldson, ABC News; and Helen Thomas, United Press International.

Statement on Drug Use By Prison Inmates

April 26, 1998

The report on jail inmates released today by the Justice Department confirms the urgent need for Government at all levels to pursue a policy of coerced abstinence for drug offenders. The report shows that more than half of these criminals used drugs in the month prior to their arrest. We have an obligation to install a tough system of testing, treatment, and punishment for drug offenders to prevent them from returning to the streets with dangerous drug habits intact. Congress can take the lead by adopting my administration's proposals to promote coerced abstinence throughout the criminal justice system.

NOTE: This statement was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on April 25 but was embargoed for release until 4:30 p.m. on April 26.

Remarks at the Premiere of "Ragtime"

April 26, 1998

Thank you very much. Ladies and gentlemen, when we were being ushered up the aisle and backstage and we were preparing to come up here, I was full of ambivalence, frankly. I wanted so badly to come up here and thank Garth and the magnificent cast, musicians, people backstage, everybody who had anything to do with this unbelievable gift we have been given. I wanted to thank the leaders of the Democratic Party and the staff. I wanted to especially thank all of you for being here and for making this weekend, celebrating our 150th birthday as a party, a success. But I was absolutely convinced that anything I would say would be a complete anticlimax after the ringer they have put us through today. [*Laughter*]

I was thinking on the way over here about the time when Mr. Doctorow published this magnificent novel over 20 years ago now, and Hillary and I were young law professors living in the mountains of north Arkansas. And I read the book almost immediately after it came out. I couldn't put it down. I just sat

there, read right through it. And after it was over, I felt just as I felt after the show was over.

But I don't think even then I fully grasped the life force behind the stories in "Ragtime." And I think what I would like to say to you is that, yes, this is the story of America, and it reminds us that we have a good system and the best ideals, but we always fall a little short. And the story of our country has to be the continuing effort to overcome our own individual flaws and imperfections and tendency to fall into injustice and bigotry and oppression and greed and shortsightedness, or just plain tone-deafness but that there is also a part of the human condition which makes us vulnerable as people.

I was walking down the aisle and several of you said, thank you so much for what you did to try to help the Irish people process along. And then I saw the representative of my ancestors, the Irish fireman here— [*laughter*]—playing the heavy. We got a book last week, Hillary and I did, entitled "How The Irish Became White." [*Laughter*] And it basically talks about how, when the Irish immigrants first came here, they really identified with the African-American slaves because they were treated the same way, and they had much the same experience.

I say that to remind us all that there will always be the tendency of people to abuse power if they can abuse it. That's why we have a constitution which seeks earnestly to limit that. And all of us will always have our imperfection, and so will our children and grandchildren and their grandchildren. The thing that makes America great is that we have the right ideals and that through history we have constantly sought to overcome our own limitations, to stand for deeper freedom, to stand for wider opportunity, to stand for a more perfect Union.

And I hope that all of you will always remember what you saw on this stage tonight. I hope you will never, ever abandon what brought you here to this performance tonight. And I hope all of your lives you will try to create more of the joy you saw here, eliminate all the oppression you can, and be very proud to be both an American and a Democrat.

Thank you, and God bless you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 7:30 p.m. at the National Theater. In his remarks, he referred to Garth H. Drabinsky, chairman and chief executive officer, Livent, Inc.; and author E.L. Doctorow.

Remarks at a Democratic National Committee Dinner

April 26, 1998

Thank you. Thank you very much. Let me see, we have now seen a magnificent musical rendition of a wonderful novel. We heard two fine speeches. If I had any sense, I would sit down. [*Laughter*]

When Bob was talking about that obscurity is forever, I think the Vice President is too sensitive. I thought he was talking about being a former President, not being a— [*laughter*].

I want to thank the Kogods and the Smiths and all their family members for having us in this magnificent home, for giving us a chance to look at all the wonderful art, for being in this beautiful tent. I'm delighted with the weather, and I'm delighted with the company. I want to thank the leaders of our party and the cochairs of this event tonight.

As you leave here—and the Vice President has already said a lot of the things that I think should be said about what it means for a party to be 150 years old. But let me say, when Hillary and I were in Chile recently, someone, I think on her staff, got us a copy of a speech which Theodore Roosevelt gave in Chile after he left the White House in the early part of this century, a speech which I have to say I believe the members of his party ignored.

But it's brilliant speech about how in politics, if you want to really matter, you have to be faithful to eternal values, but you have to always be willing to lift the dead hand of history off your politics, always be willing to do whatever is necessary to advance the expansion of freedom and opportunity for people, and never to be paralyzed by what you used to do when it no longer makes sense.

It's really quite a brilliant speech, and I read it when I was in Chile, thinking, that's what I think, and that's what I think our party embodies.

What I would like for you to think about, leaving here tonight, basically are just three

things. Number one, in terms of what we're going to do in the next 2½ years, in order to continue to win Presidential elections, win back the Congress, and become the dominant party in the country again, I think we not only have to continue to win with an aggressive, specific agenda; I think we have to also keep pushing the big ideas—that we do believe in opportunity for everybody; we do believe that we should expand the reach of human freedom; we do believe that we're stronger as a diverse country.

And there are two or three really simple things that I would like to mention that to me are quite important. And frankly, I haven't succeeded yet in convincing huge numbers of the American people that this has to be a part of our thinking. The first is that it no longer makes sense to have a clear, bright line between what is an American domestic policy and what is a foreign policy. Now, if I had succeeded in doing that, we wouldn't have some of the disputes we still have in our country today, and there would be more support in our country for paying our U.N. dues, investing in the International Monetary Fund, being responsible citizens in every way.

I think the American people know we're living in an interdependent world, but it's not such a high priority that politicians for their own purposes don't feel they can—they still feel free to walk away from some of our responsibilities in the world. And I think that's a great mistake, because I can tell you—you know, I believe that every nation I have set foot in as President, I was doing something that was good for the American people and their future and our children's future.

You do not have to be a Jewish-American or an Arab-American to know that the children of our country will have a brighter future if there is peace in the Middle East. You don't have to have come out of central Europe to know that the children of our country will have a brighter future if there is peace in Bosnia. You don't have to be Greek or Turkish to know that we'd be a whole lot better off if we'd resolve the problems over Cyprus. You don't have to be Indian or Pakistani to know that it would be an ultimate disaster if those two great nations went to war over Kashmir, when they could

go to peace and change the whole future of the 21st century by their numbers and their ingenuity.

This is elemental, and as Democrats we have got to continue to push the fact that our children live in a smaller and smaller world and that we cannot any longer just look at the outlines of the United States on a map and say only those events which occur within that border and only the people who live within those borders bear directly on our lives, our future, and our imagination.

The other thing I'd like to say is that I think that we have got to learn to stop thinking of ourselves as the environmental party and start thinking of the environment as a part of all of our other policies. I think we will never have the kind of country we want unless we say we can conquer the problem of climate change as we grow the economy.

We dare not think of some—we can't even have health policy unless we have environmental policy. We have to learn to think in a more integrated fashion. This may be late at night, and you may think that's esoteric, but I'm telling you, I'm about through with my public service as an elected official. Most of my service as President is over, and I'm thinking about the things that will shape what our children have to live with for 30 or 40 years.

And the last thing I want to say is what the musical was about tonight is still the most important thing. We have to get to inculcate in our people both the pride in their own heritage, beliefs, and convictions and a fundamental respect, even a celebration, of people who are different from them. It is a great opportunity for the United States that we are the most diverse democracy in the world.

Now, as a factual matter, both Russia and India also have huge numbers of different ethnic groups, languages, and religions within their borders, but the difference is, largely those people live in geographically separate parts of the same country. Here, we're the most mixed up, if you will—I don't mean addle-brained—[laughter]—I mean, intermixed—diverse democracy in all of human history.

And if there is one thing I have learned as President that I did not really know when I took office in the way I know it now, it

is that when people fight and kill each other or live in paralyzed isolation because of their ethnic, their racial, or their religious differences, they do not do it because of some dark content of human nature, some inevitable hard hand of history. They do it because they don't have leaders who stand up and say, this is the right thing to do; that is wrong to do; we must not live apart; it is wrong to kill and hurt and maim people.

So when you go home tonight, I hope you'll remember the play for the rest of your life, the musical. I hope you will always be proud you were here. But remember, there is a reason we're still hanging around after all these years. Because we've still got the same values we started with, but we never let the dead hand of history keep us from making the changes necessary to make the American dream more real for more people in a more profound way in each new age and time.

And if we leave with that and we continue to fight for that and we remember the three specific things I said tonight, then 150 years from now a bunch of other people will be having a nice dinner celebrating the 300th birthday of the Democratic Committee. [Laughter]

Thank you, and God bless you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:41 p.m. at a private residence. In his remarks, he referred to dinner cohosts Arlene and Lauren Kogod and Clarice and Bob Smith.

Message to the Congress on Narcotics Traffickers of the Cali Cartel

April 24, 1998

To the Congress of the United States:

I hereby report to the Congress on the developments since my last report concerning the national emergency with respect to significant narcotics traffickers centered in Colombia that was declared in Executive Order 12978 of October 21, 1995. This report is submitted pursuant to section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), and section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA), 50 U.S.C. 1703(c).

1. On October 21, 1995, I signed Executive Order 12978, "Blocking Assets and Prohibiting Transactions with Significant Narcotics Traffickers" (the "Order") (60 *Fed. Reg.* 54579, October 24, 1995). The Order blocks all property subject to U.S. jurisdiction in which there is any interest of four significant foreign narcotics traffickers, one of whom is now deceased, who were principals in the so-called Cali drug cartel centered in Colombia. These persons are listed in the annex to the Order. The Order also blocks the property and interests in property of foreign persons determined by the Secretary of the Treasury, in consultation with the Attorney General and the Secretary of State, (a) to play a significant role in international narcotics trafficking centered in Colombia or (b) to materially assist in or provide financial or technological support for, or goods or services in support of, the narcotics trafficking activities of persons designated in or pursuant to the Order. In addition the Order blocks all property and interests in property subject to U.S. jurisdiction of persons determined by the Secretary of the Treasury, in consultation with the Attorney General and the Secretary of State, to be owned or controlled by, or to act for or on behalf of, persons designated in or pursuant to the Order (collectively "Specially Designated Narcotics Traffickers" or "SDNTs").

The Order further prohibits any transaction or dealing by a United States person or within the United States in property or interests in property of SDNTs, and any transaction that evades or avoids, has the purpose of evading or avoiding, or attempts to violate, the prohibitions contained in the Order.

Designations of foreign persons blocked pursuant to the Order are effective upon the date of determination by the Director of the Department of the Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) acting under authority delegated by the Secretary of the Treasury. Public notice of blocking is effective upon the date of filing with the *Federal Register*, or upon prior actual notice.

2. On October 24, 1995, the Department of the Treasury issued a notice containing 76 additional names of persons determined to meet the criteria set forth in Executive

Order 12978 (60 *Fed. Reg.* 54582, October 24, 1995). Additional notices expanding and updating the list of SDNTs were published on November 29, 1995 (60 *Fed. Reg.* 61288), March 8, 1996 (61 *Fed. Reg.* 9523), and January 21, 1997 (62 *Fed. Reg.* 2903).

Effective February 28, 1997, OFAC issued the Narcotics Trafficking Sanctions Regulations ("NTSR" or the "Regulations"), 31 C.F.R. Part 536, to further implement my declaration of a national emergency and imposition of sanctions against significant foreign narcotics traffickers centered in Colombia (62 *Fed. Reg.* 9959, March 5, 1997).

On April 17, 1997 (62 *Fed. Reg.* 19500, April 22, 1997), July 30, 1997 (62 *Fed. Reg.* 41850, August 4, 1997), and September 9, 1997 (62 *Fed. Reg.* 48177, September 15, 1997), OFAC amended appendices A and B to 31 C.F.R. chapter V, revising information concerning individuals and entities who have been determined to play a significant role in international narcotics trafficking centered in Colombia or have been determined to be owned or controlled by, or to act for or on behalf of, or to be acting as fronts for the Cali cartel in Colombia. These actions are part of the ongoing interagency implementation of Executive Order 12978 of October 21, 1995. These changes to the previous SDNT list brought it to a total of 426 businesses and individuals with whom financial and business dealings are prohibited and whose assets are blocked under the Order.

3. OFAC has disseminated and routinely updated details of this program to the financial, securities, and international trade communities by both electronic and conventional media. In addition to bulletins to banking institutions via the Federal Reserve System and the Clearing House Interbank Payments System (CHIPS), individual notices were provided to all relevant State and Federal regulatory agencies, automated clearing houses, and State and independent banking associations across the country. OFAC contacted all major securities industry associations and regulators. It posted electronic notices on the Internet and over 10 computer bulletin boards and 2 fax-on-demand services, and provided the same material to the U.S. Embassy in Bogota for distribution to U.S. companies operating in Colombia.

4. As of March 25, 1998, OFAC had issued nine specific licenses pursuant to Executive Order 12978. These licenses were issued in accordance with established Treasury policy authorizing the completion of presanctions transactions and the provision of legal services to and payment of fees for representation of SDNTs in proceedings within the United States arising from the imposition of sanctions.

5. The narcotics trafficking sanctions have had a significant impact on the Cali drug cartel. Of the 133 business entities designated as SDNTs as of February 20, 1998, 41, or nearly a third, having a combined net worth estimated at more than \$45 million and a combined income of more than \$200 million, had been determined to have gone into liquidation. As a result of OFAC designations, 3 Colombian banks have closed about 300 SDNT accounts of nearly 100 designated individuals. One of the largest SDNT commercial entities, a discount drugstore with an annual income exceeding \$136 million, has been reduced to operating on a cash basis. These specific results augment the less quantifiable but significant impact of denying the designated individuals and entities of the cartel access to U.S. financial and commercial facilities.

Various enforcement actions carried over from prior reporting periods are continuing and new reports of violations are being aggressively pursued. Two criminal investigations are ongoing. Since my last report, OFAC has collected its first civil monetary penalty for violations of IEEPA and the Regulations under the program. OFAC collected \$2,625 from a commercial agent for ocean-going oil tankers for violative funds transfers.

6. The expenses incurred by the Federal Government in the 6-month period from October 21, 1997, through April 20, 1998, that are directly attributable to the exercise of powers and authorities conferred by the declaration of the national emergency with respect to Significant Narcotics Traffickers are estimated at approximately \$620,000. Personnel costs were largely centered in the Department of the Treasury (particularly in the Office of Foreign Assets Control, the U.S. Customs Service, and the Office of the General Counsel), the Department of Justice,

and the Department of State. These data do not reflect certain costs of operations by the intelligence and law enforcement communities.

7. Executive Order 12978 provides my Administration with a tool for combatting the actions of significant foreign narcotics traffickers centered in Colombia and the unparalleled violence, corruption, and harm that they cause in the United States and abroad. The Order is designed to deny these traffickers the benefit of any assets subject to the jurisdiction of the United States and to prevent United States persons from engaging in any commercial dealings with them, their front companies, and their agents. Executive Order 12978 demonstrates the United States commitment to end the damage that such traffickers wreak upon society in the United States and abroad.

The magnitude and the dimension of the problem in Colombia—perhaps the most pivotal country of all in terms of the world's cocaine trade—are extremely grave. I shall continue to exercise the powers at my disposal to apply economic sanctions against significant foreign narcotics traffickers and their violent and corrupting activities as long as these measures are appropriate, and will continue to report periodically to the Congress on significant developments pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1703(c).

William J. Clinton

The White House,
April 24, 1998.

NOTE: This letter was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on April 27.

Remarks at a Reception Celebrating the 50th Anniversary of Israel

April 27, 1998

Thank you very much. Mr. President, Rector, all the officials of Hebrew University; Mr. Vice President, members of the Cabinet, the administration, Members of the Congress. I'd like to especially thank Dr. Dunn, Dr. Nyang, Dr. Schorsch, and Richard Dreyfuss and Linda Lavin for their wonderful contributions to this day. To Ambassador and Mrs. Ben-Elissar, thank you for being

here. To all of our former Ambassadors to the United States and other distinguished guests from Israel, and my fellow Americans.

I'd also like to ask that we give a special word of appreciation to the people who provided all that wonderful music which got us in the right frame of mind, Esta band. [Applause] Thank you very much. If you could hang around here for a month or two, I think we might get some things done; you'd keep us all in a very positive frame of mind.

I am very honored to receive this degree from Hebrew University of Jerusalem, honored because its founders include Chaim Weizmann, Martin Buber, Sigmund Freud, and Albert Einstein; honored because it is now one of the world's leading centers of learning and research.

I must say, I never expected to be doing this here. Many American universities have satellite campuses where working people like me can obtain degrees at locations near their homes and offices. [Laughter] This is more than I ever could have anticipated. [Laughter]

President Magidor, thank you for bringing this ceremony here so that those of us who cannot go to Israel in a couple of days may share in the celebration of this magnificent 50th birthday.

I accept this honor today on behalf of my predecessors, beginning with Harry Truman, nine American Presidents all devoted to Israel's security and freedom, all committed to peace in the Middle East. I accept it on behalf of the American people who have formed not just an alliance but a profound friendship with the people of Israel over these last 50 years.

Today we celebrate that extraordinary 50 years. In 1948 Israel arose from the seeds of the Diaspora and the ashes of the Holocaust. The children of Abraham and Sarah, survivors of 2,000 years of exile and persecution, were home at last and free at last. For its founders, the Israeli State was, however, about even more than securing a haven for the Jewish people after centuries of suffering and wandering. Isaiah prophesied that Israel would become "a light unto the nations," and David Ben-Gurion and his allies set out to make that prophecy come true by establishing a society of light, embracing what Ben-

Gurion called the higher virtues of truth, justice, and compassion.

Ben-Gurion believed Israel could lead the world to a better future by marrying the ethical teachings of the ancients with the discoveries of modern science. "It is only by the integration of the two," he wrote, "that the blessings of both can flourish." Of course, he also envisioned a third great achievement for Israel that, with strength and wisdom and skill, Israel would build a lasting peace with its Arab neighbors.

As we have heard today, relations between our two nations were born of another leader's courage and vision. Harry Truman brushed aside the urgings of his advisers, as he often did, when they said go slow, wait and see, before offering Israel recognition. For him, supporting a Jewish homeland was a moral imperative rooted in his understanding of the suffering and dreams of the Jews from Biblical times. And as we learned from Richard's wonderful reading, it occurred just 11 minutes after Israel proclaimed independence. We, in becoming the first country to recognize Israel, had one of our proudest moments. Not only that, 50 years later, old Harry Truman looks pretty smart. [Laughter]

Look what Israel has done. Under a brilliant blue sky, the Israelis have built prosperous farms and kibbutzes, planted forests, turned streets of sand into shining boulevards, raised families, and welcomed the arrival of brothers and sisters from Europe and North Africa, from Russia and Ethiopia and America. Israelis have dazzled the world with achievements in science and scholarship, in literature and the art. They have built a thriving democracy.

And despite the passage of 50 years, Israelis seem to love and practice their freedom as if they had only just gained it. They never seem to cease challenging themselves about their history, their relationship with their neighbors, the hard choices for the future. If anyone ever wonders whether there is a place in the world where you can have freedom and honest, vigorous, 24-hour-a-day, 7-day-a-week, 365-day-a-year argument, go to Israel. [Laughter]

It is truly one of the most pulsating, vibrant places on Earth, alive with thousands of sounds, prayers in dozens of languages in the

Old City, young people gathered on the avenues of Tel Aviv, computer keyboards tapping, new ventures launched on the Internet, school children now conversing in Hebrew, once the language only of sacred text now the voice of an Israeli renaissance. And the economy has been propelled by all this energy and activity into being one of the most advanced and diversified in the world, per capita income now matching nations in Europe; exports last year were \$32 billion dollars, 1,000 times their level in 1948. Hi-tech companies, hi-tech people, you go to Israel; it looks as if you can't be a citizen of Israel unless you have a cell phone glued to your hand. [*Laughter*]

Yes, Israelis have gone a very long way toward fulfilling the first two pieces of Ben-Gurion's vision. Surely they have built an ethical, democratic society, and a modern science and technology-based economy. It has endured against great odds by prevailing again and again in battle. The valor of citizen soldiers and military and political leaders like Golda Meir, Moshe Dayan, Yonni Netanyahu.

But in the battle for the third piece of Ben-Gurion's vision, a just, secure, and lasting peace, is still being waged and still in blood and tears. Camp David brought peace between Israel and Egypt, but it cost Anwar Sadat his life. Here on this very spot, on a brilliant day in September of 1993, Yitzhak Rabin committed himself not only to an agreement with Mr. Arafat but to a comprehensive peace in the Middle East. How bravely he pursued it. But it cost him his life.

Jews and Arabs who have wanted nothing more than to live quiet, normal lives are still denied that simple pleasure. Still, as the new century dawns, the world is filled with the promise and hope that we can overcome ancient hatreds to build a modern peace for our children.

From Guatemala to Mozambique to Bosnia, and now even to the land of my ancestors in Ireland, longtime antagonists have left the battleground to find common ground. They are weary of war. They long for peace for their children. They move beyond hatred to hope.

This is a time of reconciliation around the world. It must be a time to deepen freedom and raise up life in the Middle East. The 21st century can and must be a century of democracy, prosperity, and justice and, of course, of peace. But it can be only if we learn not only to respect but to honor our differences. The Middle East can build on the momentous achievements of its Nobel Prize winners, Begin and Sadat, Arafat, Peres, and Rabin, so that all its children may grow up without fear.

In a land holy to three great religions, sacred sites for Islam, Judaism, and Christianity exist side by side. If there is so much history there, the children of all that history should be able to live together.

Again and again, extremists have sought to derail peace with bullets and bombs. Again and again, they demonstrate the real divisions today are not between Jews and Arabs but between those stuck in the past and those who long for a better future, between those paralyzed by hatred and those energized by hope, those who stand with clenched fists and those who reach out with open hands. We cannot let the extremists prevail. Israel can fulfill its full promise by drawing on the courage and vision of its founders to achieve peace with security. Never has the opportunity been more real, and it must not be lost.

You know, I was sitting here on the stage today listening to everything that was said and thinking of all the great gifts that Israel has given the United States. In 1963, 35 years ago this year, when Israel was still a young nation and President Kennedy was killed, your then-United Nations Ambassador, Mr. Eban, gave an enormous gift to the American people in all of our pain by putting in one short, terse sentence how we all felt when he said, "Tragedy is the difference between what is and what might have been." As we look ahead to tomorrow, let us define triumph by turning his formula on its head. Triumph is when there is no difference between what might have been and what is.

Let us in the United States say that we will stand by Israel, always foursquare for its security, always together in friendship, but we want this debate to continue until there

is no difference between what might have been and what is.

We look at Hebrew University and see all three pieces of David Ben-Gurion's dream coming to life. We see biologists developing techniques to locate a single cancer cell among millions of healthy ones; we see the moral commitment to keeping people's health among the scientists there; we see Hebrew University researchers undertaking efforts in cooperation with Palestinian researchers in East Jerusalem. One of the participants in the project said, "It's science and peace together." We know that much more is possible. We must understand that much more is essential.

Fifty years from now the 21st century will near its midpoint and Israel will have a 100th birthday celebration. Sure as the world, our grandchildren will be hanging around here on this lawn. What do you think they'll be able to say? And what will they be celebrating? It is my dream that on that 100th anniversary, people from every country in the Middle East will gather in the Holy Land, and all the land will be holy to all of them.

As a Christian, I do not know how God, if He were to come to Earth, would divide the land over which there is dispute now. I suspect neither does anyone else in this audience. But I know that if we all pray for the wisdom to do God's will, chances are we will find a way to close the gap in the next couple of years between what might be and what is. I think that is what we owe the founders of Israel, to finish Ben-Gurion's dream.

Thank you, and God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:58 a.m. on the South Lawn at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Menachem Magidor, president, and Menahem Ben-Sasson, rector, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem; Rev. James M. Dunn, executive director, Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs; Sulayman S. Nyang, president, Interfaith Conference of Washington, DC; Ismar Schorsch, chancellor, Jewish Theological Seminary; actors Richard Dreyfuss and Linda Lavin; Israeli Ambassador to the U.S. Eliahu Ben-Elissar and his wife, Nitzza; and Chairman Yasser Arafat of the Palestinian Authority.

Remarks on Receiving the Surgeon General's Report on Tobacco Use Among Minority Groups

April 27, 1998

Thank you very much, Dr. Satcher, for the exceptional report. I thank all those who worked on it. Mr. Vice President, Secretary Shalala, thank you for your long and constant fidelity to this cause. Thank you, Senator Frist, for being here, for demonstrating that it is a medical, not a political issue, and an American, not a partisan issue. You gave us a "two-fer" today, and we thank you for that. You were great. [Applause] Thank you.

I also thank Senator Hatch and Senator Chafee for being here, all the Members of the House of Representatives. I thank the leaders of the Native American tribes who are here. I especially thank the attorneys general who are here. They had a lot to do with beginning this long struggle to free our children from tobacco, and they deserve a lot of the credit for the efforts that are now going on. And I'd like to thank the young people who are standing behind me and those whom they represent, all across America, in the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Youth. They represent the future we are trying to preserve.

This report gives us fresh evidence that those of us in this society who are adults, and especially those of us who are parents, are not doing our jobs very well. Any of us who have ever been parents know that our most profound and instinctive urge is to protect our children from danger so that they can grow up healthy, safe, and secure.

Just today I was talking before I came in here with a Member of the House who was at our previous event, and he was talking about a young staff member of his who was dealing with a serious health problem. And he choked up; he couldn't even finish the conversation. And he's a good person with a good heart, but that reflects the natural human response we have to protect our own children, and all those who are of the younger generation from whatever dangers we can, in the hope that they will have the opportunity to live full, good lives.

Well, we've done a good job over the years of strapping our kids into seatbelts in cars,

in safety seats. We do a pretty good job of bundling up children against the winter cold; not many of them die of pneumonia anymore. We make sure that they get to school safely each day. But we haven't done what we should in wrapping the protective arm of parents and other adults in our society as a whole around them when it comes to resisting advertising, peer pressure, or whatever other forces get young people into smoking, even though it's illegal to sell cigarettes to children in every State in the United States.

We know that today about a third of our children are smoking. The report issued by Dr. Satcher shows that more and more are becoming hooked on cigarettes. Smoking rates are up among teens of all backgrounds, but now we see especially among Hispanics, Native Americans, Asians and Pacific Islanders, and especially, and most dramatically, among African-Americans, where the rates used to be dramatically lower than the average.

These are children just starting out in life; they've got enough challenges as it is. We ought to do more to clear the way, to assure them the best possible chance at the future of their dreams. Instead, they are still becoming the targets of highly sophisticated marketing campaigns. They are the "replacement smokers" of the advertisers' strategy. But they are our children, and we can't replace them.

The call to action should be getting louder. Congress has a very important opportunity to build on the work done by the attorneys general, the representatives of individuals who have been harmed in smoking, and others—the work of the FDA—to pass a comprehensive, bipartisan tobacco bill that will cut teen smoking by raising the price of cigarettes, putting into place tough restrictions on advertising and access, imposing strong penalties on those who continue to sell cigarettes to children, ensuring the FDA has the authority it needs to regulate tobacco products, protecting farmers and farming communities, and yes, doing what Dr. Satcher says we still need to do, continuing to invest more in research to find out the answers that we don't have yet in this regard.

A bill sponsored by Senator McCain and voted out of the committee with all but one

vote—a unanimous vote save one—is a good step in that direction, because it explicitly changes the rules of the game to make it much harder for the tobacco industry to profit at the expense of our children's health.

I want to say a special word of thanks, too, to Senator Frist, because he's worked so hard to make sure that the bill provides the FDA with the authority it needs to continue to cover tobacco products.

Now, folks, the Surgeon General has just issued his first report. It's a fine report. It's a compelling report. It is obviously compelling to the leaders of the groups from whom these children come, because they have come here. We know what the danger is. We know what the remedy is. They're just kids; we're the grown-ups. Now, if we know what the danger is and we know what the remedy is, are we going to do what it takes to save their lives and their health and their future, or not? It is as simple as that. This is not rocket science.

I have been profoundly moved by the extent to which this really has become an issue about health, not politics, an issue about our children, not partisan differences. Every step along the way we have been able to reach across party lines; we've been able to put aside rhetoric; we've been able to try to look to the health issue of our children.

Now, I know there are some complexities surrounding this issue. There are complexities: How much money should be raised? How should it be spent? How should we assure the continuing jurisdiction of the FDA? Exactly what are the nature of the advertising restrictions? There are complicated questions. But my experience now, after many, many years in public life, is that all the complicated questions get much simpler if you focus on the big issue.

The big issue is that the children behind us deserve to have a future, and we know that unless we do something to stop them from being treated as replacement smokers, their future will be restricted. That is the big issue. We know what the problem is; we know what to do about it. I suggest that these children—you look at them, look at all those they represent, look at those who don't yet have the good sense to put their tee shirts on and join their crusades—and it becomes

pretty clear that we need to take this very first report by our latest distinguished Surgeon General and do the right thing with the report and for our children.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2 p.m. on the South Lawn at the White House. The report was entitled, "Tobacco Use Among U.S. Racial/Ethnic Minority Groups."

Memorandum on the Combined Federal Campaign of the National Capital Area

April 27, 1998

Memorandum for the Heads of Executive Departments and Agencies

Subject: 1998 Combined Federal Campaign of the National Capital Area

I am delighted that Rodney E. Slater, Secretary of Transportation, has agreed to again serve as the Chair of the 1998 Combined Federal Campaign of the National Capital Area. I ask you to support the campaign by personally chairing the campaign in your agency and appointing a top official as your vice chair.

The Combined Federal Campaign is an important way for Federal employees to support many worthy charities. This year our goal is to again raise more than \$38 million. Public servants not only contribute to the campaign but assume leadership roles to ensure its success.

Your personal support and enthusiasm will help guarantee another successful campaign this year.

William J. Clinton

NOTE: This memorandum was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on April 28.

Remarks on Receiving the Report of the Social Security and Medicare Trustees and an Exchange With Reporters

April 28, 1998

The President. Good afternoon. Five and a half years ago, America chose a new course

of fiscal discipline and economic growth, balancing our budget and investing in our people. Holding fast to that course, our people have built the strongest economy in a generation.

Success of this strategy cannot be cause for complacency, however. Instead, it offers us an opportunity and an obligation to act boldly to strengthen our Nation for the new century. Above all, we can harness our unsurpassed prosperity to uphold our duty to our parents, to our children, and to each other through Social Security and Medicare.

I've just been briefed by the four Social Security and Medicare trustees for the administration: Secretaries Rubin, Shalala, Herman, and Social Security Commissioner Ken Apfel. The trustees have issued their annual report on the future financial health of these vital programs.

The trustees have told us today that the Balanced Budget Act I signed into law last year has significantly improved the financial future for Medicare. The unprecedented reforms included in that law have cut the so-called 75-year deficit of Medicare in half, even as we have extended new preventive benefits, provided more health choices for Medicare beneficiaries, and instituted other reforms that extended the life of the Medicare Trust Fund for a decade.

In fact, because of the bipartisan steps taken last year, the long-term prognosis for Medicare is stronger than it has been in over a decade. A bipartisan commission is now at work to craft further steps to strengthen the complex program into the 21st century. I look forward to their recommendations.

The trustees also report that the strength of our economy has led to modest improvements in the outlook for Social Security. They project that economic growth today will extend the solvency of the Social Security Trust Fund by 3 more years, now to 2032.

Today's report is encouraging. It shows we can honor our values and meet our most fundamental obligations, even as we balance the budget. However, these modest improvements only underscore the fundamental challenge we face. We must act to make certain that Social Security is as strong for our children as it has been for our parents.

Above all, let me say again, we must save every penny of any budget surplus, of any size, until we have strengthened Social Security. I've been heartened by the support this approach has received from lawmakers from both parties. But as estimates of the possible surplus have grown, the demand for new tax and spending initiatives that could upend our fiscal discipline have grown as well. Fiscal responsibility created our prosperity. Fiscal irresponsibility could undercut it. So I will resist any proposals that would squander the budget surplus, whether on new spending programs or new tax cuts, until Social Security is strengthened for the long-term. Once more I will insist that we save Social Security first.

In the coming months we will work to build public awareness of the nature and scope of the challenge and to build public consensus for solutions. We must proceed with care, remembering that Social Security offers our people not only a guarantee of retirement security but also a life insurance and a disability insurance policy as well.

Any changes we make now will be far easier than if we wait until the problems of Social Security are at hand. We will strengthen Social Security only if we reach across lines of party philosophy and generation, as we did when we drafted last year's balanced budget. And if we make this year a year of education on Social Security, I'm confident we will come together to take the necessary steps next year.

Finally, let me say that as we continue to take the necessary steps to sustain the growth of our economy, we must look ahead to the challenges that remain. Today, once again, I have asked Congress to strengthen America's commitment to the International Monetary Fund and the U.N. In this new era, the health of our economy will be deeply affected by the health of the world economy, and the security of the United States is clearly affected by the security of the rest of the world. Failure to act on these matters will put at risk both global economic stability, which will affect our own, and the prosperity that has widened the opportunity that we have enjoyed in this country, the very prosperity which has made possible the progress

on Social Security and Medicare that I announced today.

We've got a real opportunity here, and a rare one, to act today to provide for our children's tomorrows. We should seize the moment, and I'm confident that we will.

Thank you.

Speaker Newt Gingrich

Q. Mr. President, Newt Gingrich says your administration postures more and achieves less than any administration in American history. How do you respond?

The President. Well, I think the achievements speak for themselves. And he said a lot of things last night that I don't think it would serve any useful purpose for me to respond to. There is enough negative political talk in Washington every single day without the President adding to it. I want to focus on the challenges facing our country, and that's what I intend to do.

Q. Mr. President, he also said that you should tell your supporters to stop attacking the independent counsel, Ken Starr.

The President. I don't have—I've already told you, Mr. Gingrich said a lot of things last night that I don't think deserve a response, and I think it would not serve the American public well for me to waste my time doing it. I think I need to be focused on the public issues that affect them, and that's what I intend to do.

Independent Counsel Kenneth Starr

Q. Do you have any thought of firing Ken Starr? I mean, he made that suggestion.

The President. Of hiring him?

Q. Firing him, sir. [*Laughter*] He said, if you want, you could do it in the morning. I mean, have you ever thought of that?

The President. First of all, that's not what the statute says.

Q. I'm just quoting him, sir.

The President. I know, but I don't want to respond to what he said.

Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien's Visit to Cuba

Q. [*Inaudible*]

Q. Mr. President, are you threatening to veto any tax proposals beyond—say, tobacco?

The President. Wait, wait, I'll take both, but—go ahead.

Q. Are you concerned that the Canadian Prime Minister's visit to Cuba is undermining your efforts to isolate Castro?

The President. Well, Canada and most other countries in the world do not agree with the extent of our embargo. But Canada has been a good, loyal ally in the cause of human rights. And I talked to the Prime Minister at some length, both on the telephone and when I saw him, about the importance of advocating a human rights agenda, and I believe that he will do that. I think he will push for democracy and human rights in Cuba. And if he does that effectively and makes that case, the same case that President Cardoso of Brazil made when we were in Chile when he said that it would be possible for Cuba to preserve its social contract in health care and education and still make the transition to democracy, and that's what they should be working on now. Then it could serve our common goal. We can have different approaches to a common goal, and I think we do have a common goal.

Go ahead, Helen [Helen Thomas, United Press International]. I'm sorry.

Legislative Agenda

Q. I was asking, are you threatening a veto for any tax cuts—[*inaudible*]?

The President. I tried to make it clear that I will do my best to stop any legislation that does not honor the principle of saving Social Security first.

There are lots of good ideas out there that deserve to be evaluated in the coming months about what we should do to promote long-term security and stability for not only our parents, but the younger generation, and secure Social Security, and they all ought to be debated. But when we move we ought to move in the context of Social Security reform.

Then, after that's out of the way, we can see what the Treasury looks like and what else should be done. But I think we need to deal with Social Security first. And I still believe that a majority of Members of both Houses in Congress and both parties believe that. I hope they do and I hope they'll stick with it.

Q. Do you have any ideas of how to save it, yourself? I mean—

The President. Well, sure I do. But as I said in the first forum—and I think I've been proved right—you see Senator Moynihan's got a proposal out there; Senator Kerrey's got a proposal out there; there are many proposals that have been offered by various Republican Members of the Congress. It is important for me to keep this process going and get these ideas out there. And if I were to actually take a position now, it would undermine debate and public education and immediately focus on the specific piece of legislation, which I think is the worst thing we can do.

We know—every survey of American opinion shows that there's a far different level of understanding about this issue today even than there was a year ago. Nearly everybody knows that something substantial, really substantial, has to be done to reform the Social Security system to accommodate the baby boom generation and then, subsequent, the generations after that. And yet there is a dramatic difference of opinion across the age lines about what exactly should be done and what the facts are.

So we have to—we really need to continue this effort we're making in this calendar year to educate the public and to get all the ideas out there and to encourage all the proposals to be viewed against the backdrop of how it fits into the overall scheme of things. And then I think what you'll see is—and what I certainly hope you'll see—is very rapid action early next year. I have a plan. We're going to end up in December with a conference here. We're going to meet with the leaders of both parties in Congress, and I'm going to do my best to hammer out a plan, which then will be a centerpiece of what I recommend to the American people and the Congress early next year.

International Monetary Fund

Q. Mr. President, on the Iraqi report at the U.N.—

Q. May I ask on the U.N. and the IMF, sir? Despite what you said, it seems unlikely Congress will pass funding this year. Can you spell out in more detail what you think will happen if there's not funding? Do you have any other mechanism to give—

The President. Well, let me just make it clear that Secretary Rubin has done a good job, I think, managing a difficult situation. But let's just look at Asia, for example. There's been a lot of talk about whether the IMF should be active in Asia, what it should be doing. The United States has had a good deal of success over the last 5 years by exercising economic leadership to open more markets to American products and services on terms that were fair not only to ourselves but to our trading partners. About a third of our economic growth has come as a result of that increase in trade. Just under a third of our exports are going to Asia. Now, I think, therefore, it is clear that it is in our long-term interest for the IMF to be involved in trying to stabilize those Asian economies and help them to recover.

In our personal interest—how can we expect to be the leader of the world and also to benefit, personally, economically, from a system that we won't contribute to, and we won't pay our fair share on? I think, virtually, every American now believes—or at least a huge majority—when it comes to the United Nations, that in this interdependent world, we should share responsibilities. I think people liked it when we shared responsibilities in Haiti, when we shared responsibilities in Bosnia.

And we're saying to the world, "Yes, we want to continue to lead the world toward peace and freedom. We understand this is an important part of our security and our prosperity, but we're having a little political spat in the United States, and we don't think we ought to pay our dues to the U.N. We think that different rules apply to us, and we have a right not to pay our way, so we can have this fight over an issue that is unrelated to our U.N. responsibilities or our IMF responsibilities."

I don't think that is a responsible, mature message to send to the world by the leading country in the world. I think that if we want to lead, we ought to lead, and we ought to lead by example by paying our way. That's what I believe, and I hope that I'll be able to prevail upon Congress to make some progress in that direction.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:55 p.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to President Fernando Cardoso of Brazil.

Memorandum on Ukraine-United States Cooperation on Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy

April 28, 1998

Presidential Determination No. 98-21

Memorandum for the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Energy

Subject: Presidential Determination on the Proposed Agreement for Cooperation Between the United States of America and Ukraine Concerning Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy

I have considered the proposed Agreement for Cooperation Between the United States of America and Ukraine Concerning Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy, along with the views, recommendations, and statements of the interested agencies.

I have determined that the performance of the agreement will promote, and will not constitute an unreasonable risk to, the common defense and security. Pursuant to section 123 b. of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended (42 U.S.C. 2153(b)), I hereby approve the proposed agreement and authorize you to arrange for its execution.

The Secretary of State is authorized and directed to publish this determination in the *Federal Register*.

William J. Clinton

Message to the Senate Transmitting the Brazil-United States Treaty on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters and Documentation

April 28, 1998

To the Senate of the United States:

With a view to receiving the advice and consent of the Senate to ratification, I transmit herewith the Treaty between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Federative Republic of Brazil on Mutual Legal Assistance in

Criminal Matters, signed at Brasilia on October 14, 1997. I transmit also, for the information of the Senate, the report of the Department of State with respect to the Treaty.

The Treaty is one of a series of modern mutual legal assistance treaties that the United States is negotiating in order to counter criminal activities more effectively. The Treaty should be an effective tool to assist in the prosecution of a wide variety of modern criminals, including those involved in terrorism, other violent crimes, drug trafficking, money laundering, and other "white-collar" crime. The Treaty is self-executing, and will not require new legislation.

The Treaty provides for a broad range of cooperation in criminal matters. Mutual assistance available under the Treaty includes:

(1) Locating or identifying persons or items; (2) serving documents; (3) taking testimony or statements of persons; (4) transferring persons in custody for testimony or other purposes; (5) providing documents, records, and items; (6) executing requests for searches and seizures; (7) assisting in proceedings related to immobilization and forfeiture of assets, restitution, and collection of fines; and (8) any other form of assistance not prohibited by the laws of the Requested State.

I recommend that the Senate give early and favorable consideration to the Treaty and give its advice and consent to ratification.

William J. Clinton

The White House,
April 28, 1998.

**Letter to Congressional Leaders on
Funding Considerations for the
Supplemental Appropriations
Conference**

April 28, 1998

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. Leader:)

I am writing with respect to the treatment of International Monetary Fund (IMF) and United Nations (UN) funding in the pending supplemental appropriations conference.

I am pleased that both Houses have approved needed funding for domestic disaster relief and defense. I urge Congress to approve this funding as I requested it, without violating the "firewalls" agreed to in last

year's balanced budget deal or including objectionable extraneous measures.

However, I am deeply concerned that the conference report may not include the funding I have requested for the IMF. Delay or failure to approve the full IMF requests could undermine our capacity to deal with threats to world economic stability and could leave us unable to protect American workers, farmers, and businesses in the event of an escalation or spread of the Asian financial crisis or a new crisis.

I am also deeply concerned by the possibility that the conference will not include payment of our UN arrears. The failure to provide the full request in this bill could jeopardize our chance to affect negotiations starting in May on lowering U.S. dues and would undermine U.S. leadership in the international community.

Some would link passage of IMF funding and UN arrears to legislation related to international family planning. There are deep convictions on both sides of this debate, which should be settled on its own merits—and not used to sidetrack other legislation on matters vital to our nation's well-being.

I urge you in the strongest possible terms to include the full requests for the IMF and UN arrears in the bill now in conference.

Sincerely,

William J. Clinton

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to Newt Gingrich, Speaker of the House of Representatives; Trent Lott, Senate majority leader; Thomas A. Daschle, Senate minority leader; Richard K. Arney, House majority leader; and Richard A. Gephardt, House minority leader.

**Remarks at a Democratic Senatorial
Campaign Committee Dinner in
New York City**

April 28, 1998

Thank you very much. Thank you, Shelby and Katherine, for opening your beautiful home. I thank all the Senators who are here. I thank especially Senator Kerrey and Senator Torricelli. When Bob Torricelli goes around the country or Bob Kerrey goes around the country, I know they enjoy it, but it still gets hard. [Laughter] It still gets hard.

All these Senators are here—they're going to go get on a plane and go home tonight so they can be there and vote tomorrow. And I thank them for doing this on behalf of others, among whom surely are the three candidates we have for the Senate in New York tonight. And I thank them all for running and for their fidelity to our party and for what they have already done for our country. And I thank Judith Hope for her leadership.

I also would be remiss if I didn't thank the people of New York for being so good to me and Al Gore. Twenty-five percent of the total plurality I received in popular votes in the entire country in 1996 came from New York, and I'm very grateful. I was just leaning against the wall back there wondering how much better I might have done if I hadn't interrupted traffic for 4 years before the election. *[Laughter]* Truly the people here are the epitome of tolerance. One of you tonight informed me that you had to walk 10 blocks just to get here because of my attendance. *[Laughter]* For that, I apologize.

Let me say very briefly, I try to do a number of these events to help our candidates for the Senate, our candidates for the House. I believe that the success that our country has enjoyed in the last few years is something that all Americans can claim a part of. Certainly, the private sector deserves an enormous amount of credit; just ordinary working people deserve an enormous amount of credit. But clearly, the direction of this country, and with it the direction of our party, has moved into the future, has changed, has gone to a different level. And the results have been very, very satisfactory.

We are going to have a surplus of some size this year, the first time our budget has been in balance in three decades. We have been able to dramatically increase our investments in education and in health care for our children, in the environment, in science and technology, to try to prepare for long-term growth.

What I would like to say to you tonight is—I think I'd like to make just two points about why this coming election is so important. Because if you're just following events in the papers today or on the evening news, you see that there's—particularly from the other side—there's a little more partisan

rhetoric creeping back into their speeches. They seem to be sort of lapsing into that. It's easier; you can be in a semi-coma and give that speech, because they know how to do it so well.

But I think that we shouldn't forget as Democrats why we're here, why the country is in the best shape it's been in a generation, and what we're supposed to do with this time. You know, good times can be very deceptive because even if the times are very good, all of us know they're very dynamic. Things are changing very rapidly. You can take any set of circumstances and pick up a magazine and one expert will say the glass is half-full, and the other will say the glass is half-empty; a third will say the glass is unbreakable; and the fourth will say it's about to be shattered.

So in a dynamic time, it seems to me, we need to think about two things. Number one, when people have a lot of confidence because things are going well, but leaders know that things are changing and the ground is still moving, that is the time when big issues should be faced and long-term problems should be solved. Now, we've got the sort of basic mechanisms of our society working better now with the budget in balance and the other things that are going on.

This country has some big, long-term problems. I'll just mention three or four: One, reform of Social Security to deal with the baby boomers; two, reform of Medicare to deal with the costs that will come before the baby boom generation—we've cut the long-term deficit in Medicare by more than half in the last 2 years, but we've still got some problems—three, climate change; four, the biggest public health problem in America is still the fact that 3,000 children a day start to smoke cigarettes and 1,000 of them a day are going to die sooner because of it; five, we still don't have an adequate network of child care in our country that is truly affordable for working people. Now, those are just five issues. I can think of a lot more. Overshadowing all of them is that we still haven't provided a truly world class education for every child in this country.

I mention those things to say when times are good you should bear down in dealing with those problems, not relax and walk away

from them. And no political party should let itself sort of just kind of disintegrate into petty bickering and small-minded politics. This is a time to lift America up, energize us on big issues, and move us forward. That's the first point I want to make. That's why these elections are important.

The second point I want to make is this country, for all the change and all the modern things and all the science and technology and everything else, is still always about, in my opinion, three big ideas. And at every time of change we have to lay off the dead hand of history and adopt new means to reaffirm and broaden these three big ideas.

One is, we're about freedom and liberty. We're about deepening the meaning of freedom. That's why I supported the "Employment Nondiscrimination Act." That's why I've tried to involve more different kinds of people than any administration ever has, in our administration. That's why I have tried to push this race initiative and get Americans to think about what it's going to be like when we are no longer a biracial or even a triracial society, but we have the most diverse democracy in the world, when more and more places look like the New York City schools do.

Because these are the challenges we've always faced. This is the challenge of our generation, the freedom challenge. How are we going to get the most out of everybody's life? Only if everyone is treated with dignity and equality.

The second thing this country has always been about is widening the circle of opportunity, giving everyone not a guarantee but a chance. I don't think any serious person would say that everybody in this country has really got the same chance today. But there are more people with more chances than they had 5 years ago, and I'm proud of that. And I'm determined to see that we continue to expand those chances.

That's why we've supported things at home and abroad like microcredit programs, for example, to give little people a chance to borrow money to get into business, to prove that they can make something of their lives. It may sound like a small thing, but to someone who has it, who didn't have it before, it's all the difference in the world. And the Demo-

cratic Party is about widening the circle of opportunity.

And the third thing that I want to say, and it's very important, that is so easy to lose sight of when the stock market is at 9,000 or even when it drops 160 points, is we're also about strengthening the bonds of our Union and improving our relationships with people beyond our borders. That also has been a constant throughout our 200-year-plus history. And that's very important.

If you look at what's eating the world alive today—I go to Africa, and I celebrate all the wonderful things that are happening and then go to Rwanda and talk to 6 people who survived 100 days in which 800,000 people were slaughtered because of their tribal differences. We're all sitting on pins and needles, especially in New York, waiting for the Irish to vote in May to see whether they can vote for the next 30 years instead of being imprisoned by the last 30 years or, indeed, by the last 600 years. We're all hanging around now waiting on pins and needles as we celebrate Israel's 50th birthday, because the Secretary of State is going to London to meet with the leader of Israel and the leader of the PLO hoping to get the peace process going again.

All over the world, in this so-called modern world where kids are pecking away on the Internet on every continent, we are still bedeviled by the most fundamental and primitive of prejudices of all kinds. We, the American people, should be drawing closer together. We, the Democratic Party, should be the instrument of that union.

So I say to you, there are two reasons that you ought to be here. One is, more Democratic Senators and reelecting the ones we have means we'll do a better job on the big issues for tomorrow. We've proved it with the deficit. We've proved it with crime. We've proved it with welfare. We've proved it with the environment. We've proved it with a whole host of issues. But we've still got huge challenges out there to face.

And two—and even more important—we will carry forward the eternal mission of America in modern times. And that matters more than anything else. In the end, that's what will really matter to your kids. Are we forming a more perfect Union? Is there more

opportunity for everybody? Does freedom mean more today than it did 30 years ago? If we can do our job and you help us, the answer to all three of those questions will be a resounding yes.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:20 p.m. at a private residence. In his remarks, he referred to dinner hosts Shelby and Katherine Bryan; Judith Hope, chair, New York State Democratic Party; Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu of Israel; and Chairman Yasser Arafat of the Palestinian Authority.

Remarks at a Reception for the United States Winter Olympic and Paralympic Teams

April 29, 1998

Thank you and welcome to the White House. I am delighted to have all of you here. I thank the members of the Cabinet for coming, and I thank Congressman Ryun from Kansas, a former Olympian, for being here. To the president of the Olympic Committee, Bill Hybl, to the executive director, Dick Schultz, and to all the other officials, and to the members of our Olympic team.

Let me say—before I get into my remarks, I need to make two preliminary comments. First of all, I want to thank Tipper Gore for representing our administration at the 1998 Winter Olympics. I wish she could be here with us today. I know she would like to be. I'd also like to thank my good friend Mack McLarty for working so hard with the Vice President as the Cochair of our White House Task Force on the Olympic games.

The second thing I'd like to do before I get into my remarks is to just say, for the benefit—because this is my only chance to talk to the press today—I just finished a very good meeting with the Senate Republican and Democratic leaders, Trent Lott and Tom Daschle, about one of the most important votes that our Senate will face this year, and that is to expand the alliance of NATO to include Poland, Hungary, and the Czech Republic.

I want to thank them both for their support. This is coming at a very important time for America—4 years after I first proposed

that we expand our European security alliance to make us more secure and Europe safer and more united. And I am very grateful for Senator Lott and Senator Daschle, Senator Helms and Senator Biden, and all the others. We are seeing a very impressive, high-level debate in the Senate, even among those who don't agree with my position. I must say I've been very impressed by the debate. And I'm looking forward to a positive vote by the end of this week.

Now let me say I have looked forward to this day for a long time, ever since the Olympics concluded. To see these fine people, and those who are not here who are part of their teams, I think makes all Americans very proud. In the mountains, the ice rinks, the race courses of Japan, we saw America at its best. The young Olympians who are here did more than carry our flag. In a fundamental way, they carried with them the spirit of America.

I'd like to say a special word, too, of appreciation to the Paralympians who brought home 34 medals in the largest Winter Paralympics ever. [*Applause*] Thank you.

It's also a great source of pride for us that the Winter Olympics in 2002 will be in Salt Lake City. When the Olympic flag was lowered and passed from the Mayor of Nagano to Mayor Corradini, it really marked the opening events of the 2002 games. So we're very glad that Mayor Corradini has joined us today, along with the chairman of the Salt Lake Olympic Committee, Robert Garff, and other members of the Utah Olympic Committee. We want to help them succeed. And I'd like to ask them to stand and receive our support. Mayor Corradini and the members of the Utah Committee—there's Mr. Garff. Thank you all for being here. [*Applause*] Thank you—there they are right there.

I'd also like to say one more word to America's Olympic teams in 1998. In a fundamental way, you have become a part of America's team for the rest of your lives. If you choose, for the rest of your lives, because you were an Olympian, you can have a profound, positive impact on all the people with whom you come in contact, but especially on young people.

Even though for many of you, the Olympic triumphs you had, just being a member of

the team, must have marked the most magic moment in your lives, I hope that the future will be even richer for you. And I think it can be if you use the fact that you are an Olympian to have a positive impact on the lives of young people.

The lessons of setting your sights high, working hard, being persistent, believing in yourselves, playing by the rules, supporting your team, those are lessons that every child in America needs to learn, lessons that every child can see in your eyes and in the power of your example. Some of you earlier today participated in the Champions in Life program. You can reach out, in telling your stories, working in communities, approaching future endeavors with this kind of drive and commitment, and I hope you'll do that because you can really have a positive impact on 21st century America.

In this century, through all its highs and lows, we have seen throughout the 20th century a renaissance in the Olympic games. Everybody now knows about the remarkable triumph of Jesse Owens in the 1936 Berlin games, what it said about prejudice and hatred, what it said about the difference between America and the Nazi regime that then governed in Germany.

Jesse Owens said this in 1936: "Only an Olympian can fully realize the grip the games have on the youth of the world." It was true in 1936; it is true today. Then it was true and people saw a profound good in the midst of a dark time. This is a sunlit moment of peace and prosperity. But the Olympic spirit, the spirit of goodwill, friendship, understanding, and unity across all the lines that divide us, that can propel us into an even brighter era of respect and success.

Now I would like to introduce the athlete that has been chosen by her teammates to represent the Olympians here today, a person whose grace and excellence on the ice—and I must say even more after the competition—must have been a source of enormous joy and pride, not only to her teammates but to all Americans.

Ladies and gentlemen, Ms. Michelle Kwan.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:10 p.m. on the South Lawn at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Bill Hybl, president, and Dick

Schultz, executive director, U.S. Olympic Committee; Mayor Tasuku Tsuchikada of Nagano, Japan; Mayor Deedee Corradini of Salt Lake City, UT; and Robert H. Garff, president, board of trustees, Salt Lake City Olympic Organizing Committee. Following the President's remarks, Michelle Kwan, the silver medalist in women's figure skating, presented a U.S. Olympic team jacket to the President.

Statement on Bipartisan Support for the Patients' Bill of Rights

April 29, 1998

I am extremely pleased that today at least nine Republican Members of Congress joined as cosponsors to H.R. 3605, the "Patients' Bill of Rights Act of 1998." In announcing their support for this legislation, they are sending a strong signal that it is unacceptable for this Congress to adjourn this year without passing a strong patients' rights bill.

I commend Representatives Ganske, Bass, Forbes, Fox, Gilchrest, Graham, Horn, LaTourette, and Leach for their leadership, and I look forward to working with them. We have learned again and again that when we reach across party lines we can pass important legislation that improves our Nation's health care system. Making the "Patients' Bill of Rights Act of 1998" bipartisan provides new momentum towards ensuring that a patients' bill of rights will become the law of the land.

The "Patients' Bill of Rights Act of 1998," recently introduced by Representative Dingell, provides long overdue protections that Americans need to renew their confidence in the Nation's rapidly changing health care system. It allows patients to see the specialists they need, to get emergency care whenever and whenever a medical emergency arises, to talk freely with doctors and nurses about all the medical options available—not only the cheapest, and to appeal when they have grievances about their health care.

I urge Congress to send me legislation that gives Americans the health care protections they need and deserve. I look forward to working with Members of Congress on both sides of the aisle to ensure that we pass a strong Patients' Bill of Rights this year.

Proclamation 7088—National Day of Prayer, 1998

April 29, 1998

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

In every era of American history, devout men and women from every nation have come to our shores seeking the freedom to worship according to their own conscience. Recognizing the sacredness of this fundamental human right, our founders wisely guaranteed it in the First Amendment to the Constitution.

Prayer has always been an integral part of American life. In every city, town, and rural community across our country, people of every religious denomination gather to worship according to their faith. In churches, synagogues, temples, and mosques, Americans come together to pray. We pray for the health and happiness of loved ones; for inner peace and peace among nations; and for the wisdom and courage to face the challenges of the new millennium. And always we raise our voices and hearts in prayers of thanksgiving for the blessing of freedom.

Just as Americans rely on prayer for strength and renewal in private life, so do we turn to it at moments of great joy or crisis in our public life as a Nation. Meeting in Philadelphia to make the momentous decisions that would ultimately determine the nature and form of American Government, the Continental Congress began daily deliberations with a prayer for God's blessings and assistance. In his first inaugural address, President George Washington also prayed for guidance from the Almighty as he began the enormous task of leading a new, untried democracy.

In this century, with America in the throes of the Great Depression and a world teetering on the brink of war, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt concluded his first inaugural address with a fervent prayer: "In this dedication of a Nation we humbly ask the blessing of God. May He protect each and every one of us. May He guide me in the days to come." And today, as we look ahead to the promise of a new century, Americans

continue to draw strength from the bedrock of faith and religious freedom upon which our democracy rests.

The Congress, by Public Law 100-307, has called on our citizens to reaffirm the role of prayer in our society and to honor the religious diversity our freedom permits by recognizing annually a "National Day of Prayer."

Now, Therefore, I, William J. Clinton, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim May 7, 1998, as a National Day of Prayer. I encourage the citizens of this great Nation to pray, each in his or her own manner, seeking strength from God to face the problems of today, requesting guidance for the uncertainties of tomorrow, and giving thanks for the rich blessings that our country has enjoyed throughout our history.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-ninth day of April, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-eight, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-second.

William J. Clinton

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., May 1, 1998]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on May 4.

Message to the Congress on the Chemical Weapons Convention

April 29, 1998

To the Congress of the United States:

In accordance with the resolution of advice and consent to ratification of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction, adopted by the Senate of the United States on April 24, 1997, I hereby certify in connection with Condition (7)(C)(i), Effectiveness of Australia Group, that:

Australia Group members continue to maintain an equally effective or more comprehensive control over the export of toxic chemicals and their precursors, dual-use processing equipment, human, animal and plant pathogens and toxins

with potential biological weapons application, and dual-use biological equipment, as that afforded by the Australia Group as of April 25, 1997; and

The Australia Group remains a viable mechanism for limiting the spread of chemical and biological weapons-related materials and technology, and the effectiveness of the Australia Group has not been undermined by changes in membership, lack of compliance with common export controls and nonproliferation measures, or the weakening of common controls and nonproliferation measures, in force as of April 25, 1997.

William J. Clinton

The White House,
April 29, 1998.

NOTE: This letter was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on April 30.

The President's News Conference

April 30, 1998

The President. Good afternoon. Please sit down. Before I take your questions I'd like to make a few comments on a couple of matters that I believe are essential to the strength of America in the 21st century.

Five years ago we started a new economic course for a new economy, a combined strategy of fiscal discipline, expanded trade, increased investment in education, science, technology, and our people. Today we received more good news that that strategy is working. The latest economic report shows that in the first quarter of 1998, our economy grew at 4.2 percent. Wages are rising while inflation remains low. This expansion is not fueled by big Government deficits but by booming business investment.

In the first quarter, unemployment was the lowest in 28 years, inflation the lowest in 30 years, consumer confidence at its highest level in 30 years. For 5 years in a row now, our economy has been rated the most competitive in the world.

We are living in an American economic renaissance in which opportunity is abundant, communities are getting stronger, families are more secure and more prosperous.

But we cannot allow the hum of our growing prosperity to lull us into complacency.

As estimates of the possible budget surplus expand, so, too, the suggestions that we immediately commit to spending that surplus on tax cuts or new spending. But Americans have worked too hard for too long to put our economic house in order. So I will strongly resist the use of a single penny of the surplus until we have first saved Social Security for the new century.

Nor can we turn our backs on America's responsibility to lead in the world. We see that, by the way, in the commitment today of the Vice President and Mrs. Gore as they represent our Nation on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the birth of the State of Israel.

Today, the health of our economy is also deeply affected by what goes on in global affairs and by the health of the global economy. Therefore, I call on Congress to step up to its responsibility and renew our commitment to the International Monetary Fund and to pay our United Nations dues. I am confident we can do this in a bipartisan fashion.

The debate over NATO enlargement has been a model of bipartisan action. I want to thank Senators Lott and Daschle, Senators Helms and Biden for their leadership on this issue. I hope for a strongly positive vote in the Senate later today, because by admitting Poland, Hungary, and the Czech Republic we come even closer than ever to realizing a dream of a generation, a Europe that is united, democratic, and secure for the first time since the rise of nation-states on the European continent.

At the threshold of the 21st century we are on the rise at home and abroad. But we have to continue this progress. We have to continue to work if we want economic advances and strong national security. We have to continue to work if we hope to overcome our divisions at home and work together as one nation.

We can be everything that all of you want us to be and all Americans want us to be. But I want to emphasize, the fact that we are doing well today should not be a source of complacency. It should not be a pretext

to drift off into politics as usual or small matters. We need to bear down and deal with the long-term challenges of the country.

Now, to honor my pledge at the White House Correspondents dinner the other night, Helen [Helen Thomas, United Press International], you get the first question.

Q. You may not like it. [Laughter]

The President. I never expected to. [Laughter]

Monica Lewinsky and the Independent Counsel's Investigation

Q. Mr. President, in view of a new court ruling, Monica Lewinsky may have to appear before a grand jury. Under the circumstances, do you stand by your previous denials of any relationship with her or that anyone encouraged her to lie?

And while I have the floor, do you think that the special prosecutor has gone beyond the call and is out to get you?

The President. Well, I think modestly observant people are fully capable of drawing their own conclusions to the latter question. And as to the former question, I have answered it repeatedly and have nothing to add to my former answer. I have repeatedly said what the answer to that question is.

Terry [Terence Hunt, Associated Press].

Stock Market

Q. Mr. President, Wall Street is back above 9100, and the Dow was up 165 points at 1 o'clock. A lot of Americans are pouring money into the stock market now. Do you think that this stock market bubble is going to burst? Do you think people should be nervous about that?

The President. Now, I didn't comment on it when it dropped a lot. [Laughter] And I don't think I should now.

Let me say, there is a lot of speculation about that, as you know. The London Economist ran a whole series on it, I think either this last edition or the one before that. We have a very productive economy with high growth and low interest rates. Also, the fact that there is a downturn in many Asian economies I think has created some investment capital that normally might have gone somewhere else that may be coming back

into our country. And that would tend to drive the stock market up.

I think that what's important here is for all informed people—the stock market analysts, the people on Wall Street, Mr. Greenspan, whom I think has done quite a fine job over the last 5 years in managing his part of our economy—all of us need to just sort of talk about what the fundamentals are, what the facts are, and if there are any reasons for caution, then they ought to put them out there. But I think that to date you would have to say that most of what has happened has been spurred by the hard work and the productivity of American workers and American businesses and other developments around the world over which we Americans had no control.

But I'm encouraged by the underlying fundamentals and what I hope will happen is that we can avoid any kind of big swings in the market one way or the other by just steady, slow—maybe not so slow but, at least, steady growth. And I think if we all just get all the facts out there to the investors it's likely to come out all right.

Q. You're not nervous about where it's going?

The President. Well, I'd rather it be going up than down—[laughter]—in any big sense. But I think that you have to—I mean, even when it dropped a lot—you remember a couple years ago when we had that big drop—I wasn't terribly worried because I thought it was a correction based on the judgment of the people in the market because our underlying economy was healthy and our financial system was honest and secure and had integrity, and we had strategies for continuing long-term growth.

So I think that's what I'd like to say. It's impossible for me to predict the market, impossible for anyone to, or to characterize it. I'd just say the economists have a word called "transparency" that they use all the time that I think is the appropriate thing here. I think it's in the national interest for all actual and potential investors to have as much information as possible about how we're doing, where we're going, and what their investment options are. And then I think the markets will go up and down, they'll change.

But I'm pleased with the success of the market. I do understand the bubble theory. I think the best way to avoid having a big bubble that some day pops is to make sure that we have open information about where we are right now and the progress of the market is pretty well tied to the real progress of the economy.

Steve [Steve Holland, Reuters].

Iraq

Q. Thank you. Mr. President, the Pentagon said this week you're expected to decide whether to reduce U.S. forces in the Gulf soon. Has Baghdad made sufficient progress on allowing weapons inspections to permit a reduction in force? And if so, will we see an ending of the sanctions against Iraq?

The President. Well, those are two very different questions. Let me say, first of all, we are encouraged by the level of compliance so far with the U.N. inspections and by the evidence that has been adduced on the nuclear side that more progress has been made. And I believe we've already issued a statement that we believe that if Baghdad will continue to work with us, that by October the U.N. may well be able to certify that they are actually in compliance on the nuclear side, and they can go from the inspection to the monitoring phase.

Keep in mind, even under the agreements, the U.N. resolutions, no matter what is found out in any of these areas, there will still be a monitoring regime there.

Our position on lifting the sanctions is that the U.N. resolutions have to be complied with completely, and then we vote to lift the sanctions. So this is just a nuclear peace. But I am encouraged by that.

Now, on the question of reducing our military presence in the Gulf, I would wait for a recommendation from the Pentagon with involvement from the State Department and the NSC on that. That is, we have a certain number of carrier groups and a certain number of assets to deploy at sea. They have to be trained; they also need to be deployed in different places for different reasons. So, inevitably, unless we believe there is some reason for it to be there at some point in the future, I would anticipate some reallocation of our resources. But I have not received

a recommendation on that yet by the Defense Department.

Sam [Sam Donaldson, ABC News].

Presidential Standards

Q. Mr. President, quite a few Americans seem to believe it doesn't matter what you may have done in private moments, that that's between you and your wife. And some are saying it doesn't even matter if you've broken the law, obstructed justice, or committed perjury. Now, you deny wrongdoing, I understand. But as a standard for Presidents, what do you think: Does it matter what you do in private moments, as alleged? And particularly, does it matter if you have committed perjury or in other sense broken the law?

The President. Well, since I have answered the underlying questions, I really believe it's important for me not to say any more about this. I think that I'm, in some ways, the last person who needs to be having a national conversation about this. What I'm trying to—

Q. But you're the leader.

The President. I may be the leader, but my job as leader is to lead the country and to deal with the great public issues facing the country, and to prove Justice Scalia right when he said that nothing that could be done to me in a legal way would in any way affect my job as President; it would just be one of those things; and I could go right on and do my job. And I'm going to do my best to prove him correct by doing the public's business—

Q. So you can't even say whether Presidents ought to obey the law?

Q. Mr. President, I hate to beat a dead horse, but let me just follow that up—

The President. No, you don't. [Laughter]

White House Response to Independent Counsel's Investigation

Q. Ken Starr supporters make the case that he could be wrapping up his investigation except for the delaying tactics put forward by your lawyers, your aides—specifically, the privilege assertions, denying the Secret Service the right to testify, denying some of your aides the right to testify, denying the

First Lady the right to answer certain questions because of these privileged questions. And a lot of Americans are having a hard time understanding—why assert privilege if there's nothing to hide?

The President. First of all, you've asked three questions; let me deal with them.

On the First Lady's testimony, Mr. Kendall's response blows what they said out of the water better than anything I could say, and amounts to a "shame on them" for saying that.

Secondly, with regard to the Secret Service, I literally have had no involvement in that decision whatever. That is a decision that they have made based on what they believe—the position they've taken is a position they've taken based on what they believe is best for the institution of the Presidency. And the court will just have to evaluate their arguments and make a judgment.

Now, thirdly, on the claims of executive privilege, I cannot comment on those matters because they are under seal. However, as you know, we have suggested to the court that the pleadings and the briefs be made public, be open to public inspection, so that you and the American people could evaluate the specific executive privilege issues and whether you believe they're valid or not. But I can't talk about them. Our side has tried to honor all these court orders, and I want to continue to honor it. We've asked—it's under seal. I can't discuss it.

But I will do my best to deal with this in an appropriate way. And if the court changes the rules, I hope that we'll be able to release the pleadings and the briefs so that all of you can see what this is about and draw your own conclusions and then ask questions about it.

Trudy [Trudy Feldman, Trans Features].

Russia and the Middle East Peace Process

Q. What do you think is the strategy in the Russian state toward the Middle East at this point? And what are you expecting from the London talks next week? Is there a Russian strategy?

The President. I believe there is. I believe that basically what the Russians would like to do is to have an influence in a critical region of the world. And they have been, after

all, cosponsors of the peace process with the United States since a period before I became President. It goes back to the first Madrid Conference in '92.

Will we always agree with every position they take? No, we won't. But the Russians have pledged to cooperate with us to minimize and, hopefully, eliminate weapons transfers and component part transfers and things like that that should not go into explosive environments in the Middle East, and we are going to keep working with them to see that we achieve that goal.

Now, in terms of the London conference, I hope that after Secretary Albright meets with Mr. Netanyahu and Mr. Arafat that we will have the elements of an agreement which will get the parties into final status talks. You all pretty well know what the parameters are. There is still no agreement on how much of a redeployment should be undertaken by the Israelis from the West Bank in this next phase. But they are much closer than they were just a couple of weeks ago—much, much closer. And there are some other issues that may be able to be worked out around that that might still enable us to make an agreement.

I think what both of them are going to have to decide is whether or not they believe that they're better off waiting or each side giving a little more to get to a final status talks.

Now, keep in mind, this is not a final peace agreement. We are arguing over the dimensions of a step which is part of the Oslo agreement designed to get the parties in the final status talks which are supposed to be over a year from now—I think May of '99 is when they're supposed to end. So what the parties have got to make up their mind about is do they want to roll the dice—because, believe me, in the nature of all these agreements, the most principled compromise will leave both sides dissatisfied—by definition. That's the way—if peace agreements were easy they'd all be done already.

So the most principled compromise will leave both sides dissatisfied. What they have to decide is, do they want to roll the dice—do they really want to gamble on 6 more months of basically everything in suspended animation? Do they really believe it will be

better then? Do they really believe it will be better in another year? What happens when the timetable runs out on the Oslo Accord? Will we be closer to peace?

I think the answer is manifestly no. And so I'm hoping and praying that we'll be able to get something positive out of the London accords.

Yes, ma'am. Go ahead.

Stock Market

Q. Mr. President, I'm Evelyn Y. Davis, editor of "Highlights and Lowlights." About the stock market—and this is the middle of the stockholder meeting season—with the market being dangerously high, and the SEC favoring institutional investors, and mutual funds are not required to have adequate cash reserves and these recent circuit breakers instituted by the New York Stock Exchange are mostly for the benefit of institutional investors—what is the administration going to do to protect small investors, people who have maybe like 100 or 200 or 500 shares of stocks in the markets, from the forthcoming bear markets? And we all know what has to go up has to go down.

The President. That's true, but it's also true that over time the trend has been up. And over any long-term period, the market has out-performed Government securities. I do believe that the SEC has a responsibility to enforce the laws that are on the books, but the SEC cannot repeal the rules of the market, going up or down, for any single class of investors. And I am unaware of any specific thing that they've been asked to do over and above this.

Claire [Claire Shipman, NBC].

White House Staff Legal Fees

Q. Mr. President, whatever you may think about all of these ongoing investigations of your administration, they certainly have pulled in a lot of your friends and employees and acquaintances, people who have had to appear before the grand jury. A number of times, a lot of people—like Betty Currie, for example, who built up large legal fees. And I wonder, do you feel in any way personally responsible? And do you still intend, as you mentioned in 1996 in an interview, once

you're out of office to help out with those legal fees?

The President. Yes, if I can figure out a way to do it, I will. I feel terrible about—there are all these people who have been hauled through this, who under the governing statute, can never get their legal bills reimbursed—so that you have—the Independent Counsel not only has an unlimited budget and can go on forever—10, 20, 30, 40, 50 years, spend \$40 million today, \$100 million tomorrow—they can take—you're laughing—but we still have one from the mid-eighties in effect and—although it's not active. But in this case, we had this Resolution Trust Corporation report 2 years ago, which exhaustively reviewed every issue relevant to Whitewater. And it didn't have any effect. The thing just went on and on and on.

So more and more people get called in, and they spend money they don't have for legal fees that they can't afford. And they're never targets of investigation; therefore, they're not subject to any reimbursement. And I feel terrible about it. If I can think of something to do about it, I will.

Q. Are you responsible for that at all, yourself? I mean, is that a personal—

The President. No, if there's one person in the world I'm not responsible for, it's Mr. Starr. I think all of you would admit that—and his behavior and what he and Mr. Ewing and the others have decided to do. I don't think there's any American who believes I'm responsible for them.

Tobacco Legislation

Q. Mr. President, turning to tobacco for a moment, the House Republican leadership apparently has rejected Congressman Bliley's presentation of a compromise tobacco deal. What state do you think the tobacco compromise is in now? Are the Republicans in the pocket of big tobacco, and will this have to be fought out in the November elections?

The President. I certainly hope not. For one thing, Mr. Bliley is a conservative Republican from Virginia, a tobacco-growing State. Mr. Waxman is a liberal Democrat who's got a great reputation for protecting the public health. The fact that they reached an agreement should have been some basis of going forward. And all I can tell you is

I'm heartened by what's happening in the Senate, where we got an almost unanimous vote—just missed it by one vote—out of the committee in the Senate for the bill sponsored by Senator McCain and others. And we are going to work ahead.

I just don't think we can afford to let politics get in the way of this. I mean, the news report was that some people who were going to go along with this don't think they have to now because they think they found some political way to avoid it. I think that's a terrible way to look at this. The only thing that matters is 3,000 kids a day start smoking, even though it's illegal to sell cigarettes to kids; 1,000 of them a day will die sooner because of it. That is the only thing that matters. And we know that there are strategies which will save their lives.

I do not want this to be an issue in the November election. Let me say this again: I do not want this to be an issue in the November election. If it is an issue in the November election, it will only be because those people who have a political or a financial interest in seeing that this matter is not resolved between now and November prevent it from being resolved. The worst thing in the world would be to play politics with our children's health. I'm not going to do it, and I hope no one else will.

Peter [Peter Maer, NBC Mutual Radio].

President's Response to Questions of Character

Q. Mr. President, aside from the legal questions that you face both here and in the courts, Republicans have been notching up questions about your moral authority. How important is moral authority to you as you deal with questions like tobacco and drugs? What effect do you think this whole wave of controversies has had on your moral authority? And what kind of moral authority do you think the Republican critics have?

The President. Well, let me say, if I were to answer them in kind, I might be able to damage their reputation, which they might be able to do to me, but I could have no effect on their character, just as they can have none on mine. And therefore, I think if I were to answer them in kind, it would

be more of a reflection on my character than on their reputation.

I believe that it's very important for the President to be able to stand up for the values of the American people, collectively, and for communities and for families and for individuals. And I think this administration has a good record, and I believe I have a good record of standing up for the things that will help us to raise our children stronger and keep our families stronger and make our country stronger. At least I have done my best.

These things are distracting, and we live in a time where they are more prominent than they have been at most times in our country's history, although not at all times. And I deal with them the very best I can. But I do not think the right thing for me to do is to respond in kind. The right thing for me to do is to let others defend me as best they can and to go on and worry about the American people.

Go ahead.

Tobacco Industry Political Contributions

Q. I have a question about tobacco.

The President. Jackie, you can go next.

Q. I'm sorry.

The President. No, go ahead, Mara [Mara Liasson, National Public Radio].

Q. I've got the floor. I don't want to give it up. [Laughter]

The President. Good for you.

Q. I'm wondering if you are ready to tell the DNC and the two Democratic congressional campaign committees to stop taking campaign contributions from the tobacco companies.

The President. Well, it was my understanding that the DNC did not.

Q. Well, that's not exactly correct. There is still some tobacco money—

The President. It was my understanding that the DNC was not taking tobacco money—

Q. [Inaudible]—the congressional committees.

The President. Well, I don't tell them what to do. Congress is an independent body, as we see, and the House and the Senate committees will have to do whatever they're going to do. I have had a chance to set the

policy for the Democratic National Committee. If it's being violated, I will check on it. But I think we're doing the right thing. It's legal for those people to contribute if they want. But I think until we get this matter resolved of the teen smoking, I think it would be better if none of us did. But it's up to them to decide what to do.

Kathy [Kathy Kiely, Houston Post].

Independent Counsel's Investigation

Q. Mr. President, there are some questions that have arisen because of Mr. Starr's investigation that both you and your staff have admitted are legitimate questions, but that you don't feel you're able to answer while his investigation is ongoing. Now that he's said that the end is not near, are you willing to live with these questions hanging over you for the rest of your administration?

The President. Absolutely.

Q. Does that mean, sir, that you would leave these waiting, that you're not prepared to sit down and—

The President. It means that I think every American who has observed the conduct of the Independent Counsel would expect me to follow the advice of my counsel. And that's what I intend to do.

Q. Secondly, sir, if you believe that Ken Starr is running, as you've indicated, a partisan vendetta, and especially if you think he's wasting taxpayer money, as you've suggested here, why not ask Attorney General Reno to remove him?

The President. That would not be an appropriate thing for me to do.

Congress and the Legislative Agenda

Q. Mr. President, you and your aides have been insisting for quite some time now that you're able to remain focused on the business of the country and do your work despite what's going on. But House Speaker Gingrich is making it increasingly clear that unless there's some more cooperation, some more forthcoming on your administration's part, that your agenda on the Hill is going to be stalled. I wonder if there comes a point where you feel it's your responsibility to provide some more cooperation so that some work can get done for the American people.

The President. Oh, I don't think anyone really seriously believes that's what the last 3 or 4 days have been about. They've been about politics. And I'm not going to let—I can be responsible for a lot of things, but I'm not responsible for the Speaker's behavior. Neither, however, will I respond to it. Nothing he says about me personally—nothing—will keep me from working with him and with other Republicans in the Congress to do everything I possibly can on every issue before us.

There is nothing that he can say about me for whatever reason that will affect my willingness to sit down with him and others and work for the benefit of this country. So it's not going to get in my way. It is simply not. I am not going to permit it to happen.

Now, I will tell you this: The only thing he said recently that really bothered me was when he said that he thought that tobacco advertising basically had no impact on whether children decided to smoke or not. I simply disagree with that. I think there are other reasons, but I think that was wrong. And that's something that affects other people's lives. That's not Washington politics.

But you know, whatever people say, let them go. I've got to do my job. And I will still welcome them to the White House, and we will do our job for the American people because that's what I'm supposed to do.

Bill [Bill Plante, CBS News]. And Jackie [Jackie Calmes, Wall Street Journal].

Campaign Finance Reform

Q. Mr. President, speaking of issues, is there any reason to take seriously a promise from any politician of either party for campaign finance reform to regard it as anything other than lip service when, by actually voting for campaign finance reform in a way that would cause the bill to pass, they'd be facilitating challenges to themselves? Do you believe that this is really possible?

The President. Oh, yes.

Q. And why would anybody do it?

The President. Well, I believe it's really possible because I think a lot of politicians know that the cost of campaigns and advertising, particularly—and particularly television advertising—has gotten so expensive that they're spending all their time raising money.

And it's wearing them out, and it makes them—some of them, at least—I think very few people really are terribly compromised and wind up voting in ways different than they would otherwise vote, but I think they know it raises all kinds of questions they wish it didn't raise. And I think most people in public life would love to do it.

But as I have said before, since the Republicans now have a majority in Congress it is more difficult for them because they raise more large money, more total money, more foreign money—they raise more money in all these categories that people have raised objections to, so it is harder for them. But even among the Republican ranks, a lot of people I think genuinely want to do it. And I think that we're just going to keep working and try to get it done.

Yes. You never got your question, did you? Go ahead, I'm sorry.

Congress and the Legislative Agenda

Q. Mr. President, given the questions about your moral authority this week, together with the trouble for the tobacco bill and IMF funding, is this going to be looked on back as the week where the era of bipartisanship between you and congressional leaders ended? And if not, what are you going to do to revive things so you can get something done?

The President. Well, I don't think so. We're having some problems over the tobacco issue, but keep in mind—because of the stuff that's coming out of the House, which I don't really know how to assess—but keep in mind, we have a bill slated to go to the floor of the Senate that passed, I believe, 19 to 1. And therefore, the Senate is moving forward.

Look at the funding for the International Monetary Fund, which is very critical to our long-term economic stability. It passed the Senate 86 to 14, total bipartisan support. So—they're voting on NATO today; I expect it to be a bipartisan vote. And they'll be—and by the way, the opposition will be bipartisan, too. So I don't think a few days of high-level static in the House of Representatives, which may have more to do with their affairs than with the rest of us—I don't pretend to understand it all—I don't think that should

make us believe the era of bipartisan Government is over.

If they—if the American people will send them a clear signal and they conclude it's in their interest to work with me and work with the Republicans and the Democrats in the Senate and all of us that are working together to do it, then I think that's what will happen. It's a question of what they conclude is in their interest. And I don't understand it entirely, but I'm going to keep working to get it done.

Q. [*Inaudible*—money, how do you pay for all your initiatives, and if the Republicans instead used the money for a tax cut, would you veto the tax cut?

The President. Well, let me back up and say most of my initiatives, the Federal part of most of my initiatives are paid for by non-tobacco sources. I believe—I believe, and I think they disagree with me, and we can argue that out in the future—that could be a subject for the coming election—that if we give them back a whole lot of money that they have already spent on Medicare—Medicaid—if they get money back from the Federal Government as a result of this settlement and especially if they get more than they anticipated getting under the original attorney generals' agreement, I think, it is appropriate for us to say you ought to spend this on children. And the best way to spend it on children is on child care and education—early childhood education—getting down to small classes in the early grades, because we had the biggest increase in child health in 35 years in the balanced budget agreement last year.

So I think that's an appropriate thing to do. If they disagree with me, then we can argue about that. But I would never stand in the way of a tobacco bill that actually reduced childhood smoking because they disagreed with me about how to invest the money. But I would expect a bill to actually help our kids.

Okay, you guys. Jacobo [Jacobo Goldstein, CNN Radio Noticias], go ahead.

Cuba and Fast-Track Trading Authority

Q. You have just returned from Santiago where you attended the second Summit of

the Americas. Many of the hemispheric leaders told you or made public their belief that the U.S. embargo is not working against Cuba; it has brought about no democratic changes. Prime Minister Jean Chretien has just visited Cuba. President Castro used the opportunity welcoming him to say that the U.S. had committed war crimes against the Cuban people and should be judged in an international court for that embargo.

My question is, sir, do you believe the embargo is working? And number two, you promised the leaders in Santiago you would work to get fast track. With the economy doing so well, isn't this a good time to start pushing Congress?

Thank you.

The President. Well, the answer to the second question is it's probably not the best time because it is even closer to the election, and for reasons that I disagree with, a lot of Members of Congress—and most of them in my own party—think that it's not a good thing to do politically. I think it is imperative for our future and I will continue to try to pass it. But I don't think this is a good time right now.

What was the other question?

Q. Castro—the Cuban embargo.

The President. Oh, the Cuban embargo. On the Cuban embargo, I think that it has been useful, but I also believe that we should do more to minimize the damage to the Cuban people. Which is why, after the Pope's visit, I relaxed a lot of the restrictions on the transfer of food and medicine and on travel there in an attempt not only to help and strengthen the Cuban people but also to strengthen the church and other institutions of society, in the hope that there can be a transition to a more open, freer place. And I'm still hoping for that.

Go ahead, Mark [Mark Knoller, CBS Radio].

U.S. Secret Service and Confidentiality

Q. Mr. President, back on the Secret Service, if I can. It argues that if its agents and officers were to cooperate with Independent Counsel Ken Starr, that it would cause you to keep them at a distance. Is that true, sir? Would it change the nature of your relationship with the Secret Service detail if they

were to cooperate with the Independent Counsel?

The President. I think what it argues is—what the Secret Service argues is that the institution of the Presidency would be affected because the President, for example, would feel that conversations in the limousine going to and from places and other things that he might do in the future that have every right to be kept confidential would be subject to questioning. And even if there was nothing unlawful about them, they would then be leaked, even if leaking is illegal. And certainly, they have lots of evidence to support that worry.

I mean, as I understand it, that's their argument. However, I have had no conversations with them about it. And I think, again, I should not comment on it. They are making a case about the institution of the Presidency. President Bush has said that he agrees with them, and you might ask other former Presidents what they think. But it's the—**the Secret Service** has made this decision on its own; I am not involved with it. And I think that that's the way it ought to stay.

Mr. Cannon [Carl Cannon, Baltimore Sun].

Clemency

Q. Mr. President, earlier you spoke about the hardship of people who had to get lawyers and spend money who have done nothing wrong and are not even being targeted with an investigation. My question is about people who have been targeted. I'm asking how far along are you in your thinking about possible pardons for people who you think have been wrapped up in an investigation that they never would have even been—they never even would have come across any prosecutor's radar screen if you—

The President. No one has asked me for one and there's been no discussion about it.

Tobacco Industry and Tobacco Legislation

Q. President Clinton, I wanted to talk to you about politics and the tobacco legislation. Specifically, one way you could take the politics out of the tobacco legislation is by embracing the tobacco industry and inviting them back into the process. Do you have any

intention of doing that, and are there any plans for some sort of tobacco summit?

The President. Well, first of all, they walked away. We didn't drive them out. I was—the first I knew about them leaving was when they called a press conference and said they were leaving. I thought they were negotiating with the Congress. We were trying to negotiate with the Congress. We had—the only vehicle you have is when the leader, in this case the leader of the Senate, signed—Senator McCain's committee, the jurisdiction over the committee—he got together with Democrats and Republicans on the committee. They put together a bill, and it was voted out. They said they didn't like the bill, thought it was going to get worse, and they were walking away. And then they started running their television ads. And that's all I know.

So I would hope that before this is over they would come back and rejoin the negotiations. I think it would be better if they were at the table. And as you know, at least at the edges there's some questions about the Government's ability to impose certain restrictions on advertising unless it is done in a consent agreement with their participation. So I would like to see them a part of this.

Scott, [Scott Pelley, CBS News] go ahead.

Q. Mr. President—

The President. I'm working, Sarah [Sarah McClendon, McClendon News Service]. I'll get there. Be patient.

Monica Lewinsky

Q. Thank you, Mr. President. You suggested at the beginning of this news conference, sir, that you've answered the questions about Monica Lewinsky. But respectfully, there has been no explanation for her dozens of visits to the White House after her employment here ended; no explanation for the Secret Service concern about her behavior in the West Wing; no explanation about the extraordinary effort by your secretary and your closest friends to find her a job. Sir, could you now give us some better sense of what appears to be an extraordinary relationship that you had with this woman, and fulfill your promise to the American people of more, rather than less, sooner rather than later?

The President. Well, first of all, you have more information than you did when I said that, and secondly, I have nothing else to say. I have been advised—and I think it's good advice under the circumstances—but I just don't have anything else to say about that.

Q. Are you in legal jeopardy, sir?

Sidney Blumenthal and Hickman Ewing

Q. Mr. President, your adviser Sidney Blumenthal last week called Ken Starr's deputy, Hickman Ewing, a religious fanatic who has proclaimed that he operates from a presumption of guilt. Sir, I want to ask you if that's an appropriate comment, if you agree with it, and if you agree with Mr. Blumenthal's assertion that Starr is abusing, not just using, his office in an effort to destroy your Presidency?

The President. I don't have any comment about that. I believe there was an article on Mr. Ewing in the *New Yorker* in which he made some comment about his presumption of guilt, and you can just—his words ought to stand or fall. Nobody else should be able to characterize them.

Go ahead, Mr. Bennett [James Bennett, *New York Times*]. And then Sarah. And then John [John Harris, *Washington Post*].

President's Response to Questions of Character

Q. In light of your comments before about character, Mr. President, I'd like to ask you about a divergence we've seen in the polls recently. Public polls have suggested that the strong majority still approves of the job you're doing as President. The majority no longer feels that you share their moral values, and they say that they no longer respect you as a person. I wonder if you find that distressing and how you account for it?

The President. Well, I don't think it's hard to account for. It's been part of a strategy that's—it goes all the way back to 1991. And—but it used to distress me greatly; it doesn't anymore.

You know, I will say again, all these people that have been working hard on this for 7 years now. They can affect my reputation; they can do nothing, for good or ill, to affect my character. Unfortunately, they can't make it any better either. They can't make it any

better. They can't make it any worse. They can't have an impact on it.

And it's obvious, I think, to the American people that this has been a hard, well-financed, vigorous effort over a long period of time by people who could not contest the ideas that I brought to the table, couldn't even contest the values behind the ideas that I brought to the table, and certainly can't quarrel with the consequences and the results of my service, and therefore, personal attack seems legitimate. I have never done that in my public life. I don't believe in it, and I'm not going to participate in it. But all I can do—I can't say—I can't get in an argument with the American people about this. All I can do is show up for work every day and do the very best I can. That's what I did today, and that's what I intend to do tomorrow.

China

Q. Mr. President, it looks as if you're getting ready to sign an agreement with China which will give them help and some of our secrets, and not just be a friendly thing. Would you sign this without the American people having had wide discussion over this and debate—don't you need approval of Congress? Would you just go ahead and sign this? Because after all, that's one of our greatest enemies is China.

The President. Well, Sarah, I'm not sure I know the specific issue you're referring to, but I would not make any agreements with China in secret, and they would be subject to the knowledge of the Congress and the debate of the American people. We are trying to get to a point where we can work more closely with them and where they cooperate more closely with us. So we're trying to build the same kind of world in the future and not a very different kind of world. And I hope we'll get there.

Yes, John, go ahead.

Independent Counsel's Investigation

Q. Mr. President, there have been reports—news reports that the Independent Counsel has invited you to voluntarily answer questions about the Lewinsky matter, but so far you haven't committed to an interview. Are those reports true, and would you com-

mit to answering questions that he has, or do you believe that he's simply too biased in his investigation and, therefore, you don't have an obligation?

The President. I don't have anything to say about that. All my interactions with him, Mr. Kendall speaks for me, and I just have nothing to say.

Go ahead, Bill [William Douglas, *Newsday*]. Bill and then April [April Ryan, *American Urban Radio Networks*].

Race Initiative

Q. Recently, some conservatives who you met with at the White House in December said that they feel that your race initiative has not been inclusive, and they're embarking on their own race initiative. Do you agree with their assessment? And also, the year for your initiative is drawing to a close rapidly. Do you foresee extending that period?

The President. Well, first of all, I guess you're referring to Mr. Connerly and Ms. Thernstrom, and I'm glad if they want to spark a debate. But I did invite them here to be part of our discussion, and I invited other conservatives who were not able to come. And I've done what I could to broaden this debate in many ways and not just to those who claim a special stake in it. What we did on ESPN I thought was in some ways one of the more interesting things that has occurred in the last year.

So I welcome any kind of organized discussion. Today we've got about 40 Governors and the YWCA announcing that all over the country they're going to be engaging in these kinds of discussions. I think all of this is to the good, not bad. So I would encourage people who disagree with me about all these issues to seek out people who are different from them and get into the debate and the dialog and talk it through.

Now, as we come down to this year, to be perfectly candid, I have not made a decision about how best to carry forward this. But in some form or fashion we have to carry this forward, because what I'm trying to do is to get people to think about our racial diversity as an enormous asset for America in the 21st century if we become more of one nation as a result of it.

So we have—for example, I've got a lot of legislative proposals on the table which are critical to this, our whole empowerment zone, more community development banks, all the things we're doing to try to close the opportunity gaps in our inner cities and our rural areas. The EEOC budget, which, to go back to one former question, I believe the Speaker is committed to support, which will be very good, to clear out this huge backlog in discrimination cases before the Federal Government. There are lots of specific things we still have to do, as well as other avenues of dialog that I think need to be explored. April.

**National Drug Control Policy Director
Barry McCaffrey**

Q. Mr. President, General Barry McCaffrey is in the midst of controversy over the needle exchange program, as well as a personality conflict. Mr. President, what are your words to General McCaffrey's detractors, especially those in your Cabinet, your administration, and those Democrats in the CBC that are joining Newt Gingrich to get McCaffrey out of the Drug Czar's office?

The President. Well, first of all, I think we ought to look at his record. I think he's got quite a commendable record. We have more than double—we've had a strategy that was as follows with the drug issue: One, to try to help parents teach their children that drugs are wrong and illegal and can kill you; two, to try to support local law enforcement efforts and local community efforts at not only punishment but prevention; three, to try to increase our capacity to stop drugs from coming in at the border. We more than doubled border guards, for example, from 3,000 to 6,000. We've got another 1,000 coming in this budget. We've got a fund set aside in the highway bill to increase the technological capacity of the Government to stop drugs coming in at the border.

And General McCaffrey has been behind a lot of that. He's also done enormous work with the supply countries and Latin America, trying to get them to work with us. And he's made some real headway. He's one of the reasons we've got this alliance against drugs at the last Summit of the Americas. He supported huge increases in funding for treat-

ment and for testing and treatment for inmates not only in Federal but in State and local penitentiaries. So I think he's got a good record.

Now, he believes that the benefits of needle exchange are uncertain and that the message you send out is not good, that somehow the Government is empowering drug use. There are people all over the country who agree with that. Now, the weight of medical research and the American Medical Association has a different view. Their view is that it may help to lower the transmission of HIV, and there is no evidence that it increases drug use.

I think—if I might, I mean, that's the next logical question, why did we make the decision we did—because the weight of scientific evidence was what I just said. But if you look at it, it's clear: If you go all across the American cities or go to Vancouver, Canada, anyplace where they've had a needle exchange program where there has been serious testing, the only place it really works to reduce HIV transmission and to reduce drug use is when the people who come in to exchange needles get pulled into treatment programs.

So the real issue is, will there be more funds for treatment. And that's, obviously—I'm getting as much money out there as I can, but that's why I think it should remain a local decision and why I made the decision I did, and why I'd like to see this controversy put behind us, because I think in a way, in terms of impact on people, it has been—there has been more heat than light on it.

**NATO Expansion and Hungarian
Economic Integration**

Q. Thank you, Mr. President. This is for Hungarian national television. What is your message, sir, to those nations, particularly to Hungarians, millions of them living below the poverty line? I mean the Hungarian poverty line. Will they be better off by joining a military alliance? Some critics here say that this is like putting the cart before the horse. Military comes first; economic integration just second. What's your take on that?

Thank you.

The President. Well, first, I think it's a very legitimate question. It is a legitimate question. It's a question that bothered me,

for example, when some other countries not nearly as prosperous as Hungary were asking to be considered for NATO membership. For the United States and for other NATO members, we have to trust the elected representatives of the countries involved—in this case, Hungary, Poland, and the Czech Republic—to make the right decision on that.

My view is, if it can be afforded—for Hungary, Poland, and the Czech Republic—if it can be afforded consistent with a commitment to economic growth and benefits, preserving the social contract for the people, it will be good economically over the long run for Hungary, because it will tie Hungary more closely to the emerging global economy of democracies, it will identify Hungary even more clearly as a responsible nation capable of helping NATO solve other peacekeeping problems, and it will remove any lingering questions, however rational or not, about Hungary's security. So I think it will be good for the economy over the long run if it could be managed now.

George [George Condon, Copley News Service].

President's Response to Questions of Character

Q. Following up on Peter's earlier question, to what degree do you believe that a President, any President, is a role model in his private behavior? And does that not justify questions about private behavior that might otherwise be considered intrusive?

The President. Well, those are questions that you need to ask and answer without my involvement for the simple reason that our consensus about that over time has been—it's changed dramatically, first of all. Secondly, there is a difference between the question you asked and the exact nature of what's happened here over the last 5½ years, which I am sure you appreciate.

Cuba

Q. Mr. President, as President of the United States, the country leader to defend democracy in the world, are you ready to accept a democratic vote by the majority of the members of the OAS to reinstate Cuba as

an active member of the inter-American system? If not, why not?

The President. No, because just last year, the OAS voted to kick anybody out who abandoned democracy. So we would look completely hypocritical if we said, "Here's a set of rules we have for all of our members: If you abandon democracy you're out of here, but we feel so terrible that Cuba has been under this dictatorship for 40 years and has been outside the OAS that we think we'll bring them in here."

First of all, I think it's hypocritical. Secondly, I don't believe that democracy has been in effect and is secure enough from the enormous pressures that are on a lot of these countries to guarantee that we can preserve it if we were to make that sort of mistake.

Now, other countries in the OAS in the Americas are perfectly free to disagree with our position on Cuba. For example, the Canadian Prime Minister—one of you just asked a question—just went to Cuba. But I think when he was there, he was also pressing for democracy and human rights. We can have differences in our approach to the same goal, and I wouldn't criticize that. But I think to open up the OAS or the Summit of the Americas process to a nondemocratic nation, in my view, would be a big mistake.

This country stands for freedom and democracy. We're fighting like crazy to preserve it in countries where it is very difficult to do so, where people literally put their lives on the line every day for freedom. And when people are out there risking their lives, we ought not to send the wrong signal about how important that is to us.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President's 157th news conference began at 2 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu of Israel; Chairman Yasser Arafat of the Palestinian Authority; Prime Minister Jean Chretien of Canada; Abigail Thernstrom, senior fellow, Manhattan Institute; and Ward Connerly, chairman, American Civil Rights Institute.

Statement on Senate Approval of NATO Enlargement

April 30, 1998

I am delighted that the Senate voted by an overwhelming margin to admit Poland, Hungary, and the Czech Republic into NATO. This vote is a major milestone on the road to an undivided, democratic, and peaceful Europe. The addition of these three democracies to our alliance will strengthen NATO, expand the zone of stability in Europe and reduce the chances American men and women will ever again be called into Europe's fields of battle. The message this vote sends is clear: American support for NATO is firm; our leadership for security on both sides of the Atlantic is strong; and there is a solid, bipartisan foundation for an active U.S. role in the world.

I want to pay tribute to the indispensable efforts of the many leaders from both parties who brought us to this day, starting with Majority Leader Lott and Minority Leader Daschle. This vote stands in the tradition of Harry Truman, George Marshall, and Arthur Vandenberg and the other giants who kept America engaged in the world after World War II and were present at NATO's creation. Their lesson then is our lesson tonight—that our strength lies in a foreign policy guided by the interests and values that unite us as Americans.

Executive Order 13081— Amendment to Executive Order No. 13038, Advisory Committee on Public Interest Obligations of Digital Television Broadcasters

April 30, 1998

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America and in order to extend the reporting deadline of the Advisory Committee on Public Interest Obligations of Digital Television Broadcasters, it is hereby ordered that Executive Order 13038, as amended, is further amended by deleting

“June 1, 1998” in section 2 and inserting “October 1, 1998” in lieu thereof.

William J. Clinton

The White House,
April 30, 1998.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., May 1, 1998]

NOTE: This Executive order was published in the *Federal Register* on May 4.

Proclamation 7089—Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month, 1998

April 30, 1998

*By the President of the United States
of America*

A Proclamation

Like millions of others who left their homelands to come to America, the first Asian and Pacific Island immigrants who arrived here in the 19th century were seeking a better life than the one they left behind. Many were poor; many had suffered oppression; but all were strengthened by a rich culture, an ancient heritage, a belief in freedom's promise, and a willingness to work for their share of the American Dream.

For many, however, that dream was deferred. These courageous men and women from Asia and the Pacific Islands were met in America by prejudice as they strived to make a living and establish a home in their adopted country.

These brave new Americans would prevail over every hardship. Whether working in the gold fields of California, laboring on the sugar and pineapple plantations of Hawaii, constructing the transcontinental railway, or creating their own businesses, Asian and Pacific Americans succeeded in building new lives for themselves and their families.

Today, Asian and Pacific Americans are helping to build a vibrant America. They are leaders in medical and scientific research, in the halls of Congress, in the classrooms of our educational institutions, in business, labor, the arts, and every other human endeavor. They are building economic and technological bridges across the Pacific and

beyond, which will ensure America's leadership well into the next millennium. These sons and daughters of Cambodia, China, Indonesia, India, Japan, Korea, Laos, the Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam, and so many other Asian and Pacific lands have enriched our national life and culture with their energy and talents, with their commitment to family and community, and with their enduring reverence for freedom.

As we approach the 21st century, Asian and Pacific Americans are playing an increasingly important role in the life of our Nation, helping us to maintain our leadership in the global economy. More important, they are inspiring us to embrace the wider world, to recognize and appreciate the blessing of our great diversity, and to become one America.

To honor the accomplishments of Asian and Pacific Americans and to recognize their many contributions to our Nation, the Congress, by Public Law 102-450, has designated the month of May as "Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month."

Now, Therefore, I, William J. Clinton, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim May 1998 as Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month. I call upon the people of the United States to observe this month with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this thirtieth day of April, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-eight, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-second.

William J. Clinton

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., May 5, 1998]

NOTE: This proclamation will be published in the *Federal Register* on May 6.

Memorandum on Agency Use of Alternate Means of Dispute Resolution and Negotiated Rulemaking

May 1, 1998

Memorandum for Heads of Executive Departments and Agencies

Subject: Designation of Interagency Committees to Facilitate and Encourage Agency Use of Alternate Means of Dispute Resolution and Negotiated Rulemaking

As part of an effort to make the Federal Government operate in a more efficient and effective manner, and to encourage, where possible, consensual resolution of disputes and issues in controversy involving the United States, including the prevention and avoidance of disputes, I have determined that each Federal agency must take steps to: (1) promote greater use of mediation, arbitration, early neutral evaluation, agency ombuds, and other alternative dispute resolution techniques, and (2) promote greater use of negotiated rulemaking.

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and laws of the United States including sections 569(a) and 573(c) of title 5, United States Code, as amended by the Administrative Dispute Resolution Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-320), I hereby direct as follows:

An Alternative Dispute Resolution Working Group, comprised of the Cabinet Departments and, as determined by the Attorney General, such other agencies with a significant interest in dispute resolution, shall be convened and is designated under 5 U.S.C. 573(c) as the interagency committee to facilitate and encourage agency use of alternative means of dispute resolution. The Working Group shall consist of representatives of the heads of all participating agencies, and may meet as a whole or in subgroups of agencies with an interest in particular issues or subject areas, such as disputes involving personnel, procurement, and claims. The Working Group shall be convened by the Attorney

General, who may designate a representative to convene and facilitate meetings of the subgroups. The Working Group shall facilitate, encourage, and provide coordination for agencies in such areas as: (1) development of programs that employ alternative means of dispute resolution, (2) training of agency personnel to recognize when and how to use alternative means of dispute resolution, (3) development of procedures that permit agencies to obtain the services of neutrals on an expedited basis, and (4) recordkeeping to ascertain the benefits of alternative means of dispute resolution. The Working Group shall also periodically advise the President, through the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, on its activities.

The Regulatory Working Group established under section 4(d) of Executive Order 12866 is designated under 5 U.S.C. 569(a) as the interagency committee to facilitate and encourage agency use of negotiated rule-making.

This directive is for the internal management of the executive branch and does not create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable by a party against the United States, its agencies or instrumentalities, its officers or employees, or any other person.

William J. Clinton

**Proclamation 7090—Law Day,
U.S.A., 1998**

May 1, 1998

*By the President of the United States
of America*

A Proclamation

In 1787, when the founders of this great Nation set forth the guiding principles of our new democracy in the Preamble to the Constitution, among their primary goals was to "establish Justice." These visionary American leaders revered the law, understanding that its proper practice would simultaneously free us and protect us, enabling us to steer a steady course between the opposing dangers of tyranny and anarchy. Today, our country, built upon the foundation of equal justice for all, is renowned throughout the world for le-

gally enshrining fundamental human rights. Recognizing the importance of law to the life of our Nation, we set aside one day each year to reflect on our judicial system and to celebrate both the security and the freedom it guarantees.

Our laws ensure that the rights set forth in the Constitution and its Amendments are protected in our everyday lives: our right to worship as we choose, to speak freely, to vote in free elections, to be safe from arbitrary arrest. Justice for all is central to our democracy, and we must strive to ensure that all Americans have equal access to the judicial system. Unfortunately, each year many of our most vulnerable citizens are denied the legal assistance they need because they cannot afford it.

I am proud that our Federal Government is making an investment to address this problem through the work of the Legal Services Corporation (LSC). For almost 25 years, the LSC has funded local offices that give our citizens access to the legal help they need to secure child support, escape domestic violence, or fight unscrupulous lenders. Last year alone, 4 million poor Americans, the majority of whom were women and children, were helped by LSC offices.

Without laws, our democracy would wither; without access to our legal system, there can be no true justice. We must affirm and strengthen our national legal services system to ensure that all Americans have an equal opportunity to enjoy the rights and liberties guaranteed in our Constitution. As we observe Law Day, let us reaffirm our faith in the rule of law and strive to secure justice for all our people.

Now, Therefore, I, William J. Clinton, President of the United States of America, in accordance with Public Law 87-20 of April 7, 1961, do hereby proclaim May 1, 1998, as Law Day. I urge the people of the United States to consider anew how our laws protect our freedoms and contribute to our national well-being. I call upon members of the legal profession, civic associations, educators, librarians, public officials, and the media to promote the observance of this day with appropriate programs and activities. I also call upon public officials to display the flag of

the United States on all government buildings throughout the day.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this first day of May, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-eight, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-second.

William J. Clinton

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., May 5, 1998]

NOTE: This proclamation will be published in the *Federal Register* on May 6.

Proclamation 7091—Loyalty Day, 1998

May 1, 1998

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

More than two centuries ago, our Nation's founders, with clear vision and courageous hearts, fashioned a new form of government for our new country. They created a government that honors human dignity and protects individual rights—a democracy strong enough to withstand external threats, secure enough to allow dissent from within, and responsive enough to help our citizens achieve their dreams. In doing so, America's founders created a Nation that inspired loyalty from its citizens and gave hope to oppressed peoples around the world.

Since then, generations of Americans have reaffirmed their loyalty and devotion to our country. During times of war, Americans have fought and died to defend our liberty and promote the ideals of democracy. In times of peace, we have strived to preserve the rights secured for us in the Constitution and to ensure that every American enjoys the full protection of those rights. And throughout the decades, Americans have strived to build upon the "more perfect Union" envisioned by our country's founders.

On Loyalty Day, as we formally acknowledge our faith in America and in this great democracy, let us rededicate ourselves to the continuing quest for a more perfect union.

Let us have the courage not only to recognize our differences, but also to build on the dreams we share and on the values we hold in common. Let us reaffirm our belief in freedom, equality, justice, and opportunity for all of our people. And let us show to all the world that our diversity is a source of lasting strength and renewal.

The Congress, by Public Law 85-529, has designated May 1 of each year as "Loyalty Day" to remind us of the many blessings we enjoy as citizens of this great land.

Now, Therefore, I, William J. Clinton, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim May 1, 1998, as Loyalty Day. I urge all Americans to recognize the heritage of American freedom, to honor the memory of those who have served and sacrificed in defense of that freedom, and to express our loyalty to our Nation through appropriate patriotic programs, ceremonies, and activities. I also call upon Government officials to display the flag of the United States in support of this national observance.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this first day of May, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-eight, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-second.

William J. Clinton

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., May 5, 1998]

NOTE: This proclamation will be published in the *Federal Register* on May 6.

Message to the Senate Transmitting the Convention on Combating Bribery of Foreign Public Officials in International Business Transactions *May 1, 1998*

To the Senate of the United States:

With a view to receiving the advice and consent of the Senate to ratification, I transmit herewith the Convention on Combating Bribery of Foreign Public Officials in International Business Transactions (the "Convention"), adopted at Paris on November 21,

1997, by a conference held under the auspices of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). The Convention was signed in Paris on December 17, 1997, by the United States and 32 other nations.

I transmit also, for the information of the Senate, interpretive Commentaries on the Convention, adopted by the negotiating conference in conjunction with the Convention, that are relevant to the Senate's consideration of the Convention. I transmit also, for the information of the Senate, the report of the Department of State with respect to the Convention.

Since the enactment in 1977 of the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (FCPA), the United States has been alone in specifically criminalizing the business-related bribery of foreign public officials. United States corporations have contended that this has put them at a significant disadvantage in competing for international contracts with respect to foreign competitors who are not subject to such laws. Consistent with the sense of the Congress, as expressed in the Omnibus Trade and Competitiveness Act of 1988, encouraging negotiation of an agreement within the OECD governing the type of behavior that is prohibited under the FCPA, the United States has worked assiduously within the OECD to persuade other countries to adopt similar legislation. Those efforts have resulted in this Convention that once in force, will require that the Parties enact laws to criminalize the bribery of foreign public officials to obtain or retain business or other improper advantage in the conduct of international business.

While the Convention is largely consistent with existing U.S. law, my Administration will propose certain amendments to the FCPA to bring it into conformity with and to implement the Convention. Legislation will be submitted separately to the Congress.

I recommend that the Senate give early and favorable consideration to the Convention, and that it give its advice and consent to ratification.

William J. Clinton

The White House,
May 1, 1998.

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.

April 27

The President announced his intention to nominate Rudolf Vilem Perina to be Ambassador to Moldova.

The President announced his intention to nominate Michael C. Lemmon to be Ambassador to Armenia.

The President announced his intention to appoint Jesse Brown as Vice-Chair, and Vinh Cam, Marc Cisneros, David Moore, Alan Steinman, and Elmo Zumwalt as members of the Special Oversight Board for Department of Defense Investigations of Gulf War Chemical and Biological Incidents.

April 28

In the evening, the President traveled to New York City, and later, he returned to Washington, DC.

The President announced his intention to nominate Jeffrey Davidow to be Ambassador to Mexico.

The President announced his intention to nominate John O'Leary to be Ambassador to Chile.

The President announced his intention to nominate Mari Carmen Aponte to be Ambassador to the Dominican Republic.

The President announced his intention to nominate E. William Crotty to be Ambassador to Barbados, Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

The President announced his intention to nominate Arthur Schechter to be Ambassador to the Bahamas.

April 29

In the morning, the President met with President Isaias Afworki of Eritrea in the Oval Office.

In an afternoon ceremony in the Roosevelt Room, the President presented the Presidential Citizens Medal to Albert Abramson.

The President declared a major disaster in Kentucky and ordered Federal aid to supplement Commonwealth and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms, tornadoes, flooding on April 16.

May 1

In the morning, the President traveled to San Jose, CA, where he toured Therma, Inc., and participated in a roundtable discussion with employees.

In the evening, the President traveled to Portola Valley, CA, where he attended a Democratic National Committee dinner.

**Nominations
Submitted to the Senate**

The following list does not include promotions of members of the Uniformed Services, nominations to the Service Academies, or nominations of Foreign Service officers.

Submitted April 28

Mari Carmen Aponte, of Puerto Rico, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Dominican Republic.

E. William Crotty, of Florida, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Barbados, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to Antigua and Barbuda, the Commonwealth of Dominica, the State of Grenada, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

Jeffrey Davidow, of Virginia, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Career Minister, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Mexico.

John O'Leary, of Maine, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Chile.

Arthur Louis Schechter, of Texas, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Commonwealth of the Bahamas.

Submitted April 29

Michael Craig Lemmon, of Florida, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Armenia.

Lynette Norton, of Pennsylvania, to be U.S. District Judge for the Western District of Pennsylvania, vice Maurice B. Cohill, Jr., retired.

Rudolf Vilem Perina, of Virginia, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Moldova.

Jeffrey G. Stark, of New York, to be a Judge of the U.S. Court of International Trade, vice R. Kenton Musgrave, retired.

Submitted May 1

Natalia Combs Greene, of the District of Columbia, to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia for the term of 15 years, vice Stephen F. Eilperin.

Neal E. Kravitz, of the District of Columbia, to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia for the term of 15 years, vice Paul Rainey Webber III, term expired.

Withdrawn May 1

Kevin Emanuel Marchman, of Colorado, to be an Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, vice Joseph Shuldiner, which was sent to the Senate on March 19, 1997, and on January 29, 1998.

Announcement of nominations for U.S. Court of International Trade Judge and U.S. District Judge for the Western District of Pennsylvania

Announcement of the text of the citation for the Presidential Citizens Medal awarded to Albert Abramson

**Checklist
of White House Press Releases**

The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

Released April 25

Statement by Counsel to the President Charles Ruff on Independent Counsel Kenneth Starr's interview of Hillary Clinton

Released April 27

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Mike McCurry

Released April 28

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Mike McCurry

Transcript of a press briefing by National Economic Council Director Gene Sperling and Social Security Commissioner Kenneth Apfel on Social Security reform

Statement by the Press Secretary: AmeriCare Humanitarian Mission to Iraq

Released April 29

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Mike McCurry

Released May 1

Advance text of remarks by National Security Adviser Samuel Berger at the Brookings Institution, entitled "The Price of American Leadership"

Announcement of nominations for District of Columbia Superior Court Judges

**Acts Approved
by the President**

Approved April 27

S. 1178 / Public Law 105-173

To amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to modify and extend the visa waiver pilot program, and to provide for the collection of data with respect to the number of non immigrants who remain in the United States after the expiration of the period of stay authorized by the Attorney General

Approved May 1

H.R. 3579 / Public Law 105-174

1998 Supplemental Appropriations and Re-scissions Act