

The President. Wait, wait, wait. Everybody has got a question. Let me give you the answer to all of them.

Q. You didn't hear—

The President. I know—yes, I did. I heard all of you shouting about it.

No one wants to get this matter behind us more than I do—except maybe all the rest of the American people. I am looking forward to the opportunity in the next few days of testifying. I will do so completely and truthfully. I am anxious to do it. But I hope you can understand why, in the interim, I can and should have no further comment on these matters.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:57 a.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi and Finance Minister Kiichi Miyazawa of Japan.

Statement on Senate Action on Job Training Reform Legislation

July 31, 1998

For years now, I have been fighting for a “GI bill” for America’s workers to modernize job training for the economy of the next century. I appreciate the bipartisan effort in the Senate that led to passage of legislation to do just that last night. This bill will make sure that job training in America helps our people meet the demands of a rapidly changing economy. I hope the House will continue this bipartisan effort to give Americans new training opportunities designed for the cutting-edge jobs of the future.

This legislation will fundamentally reform job training by empowering individuals to learn new skills with a simple skill grant. It also consolidates the tangle of training programs; creates a network of One-Stop Career Centers; increases accountability to ensure results; allows States and communities to tailor programs to locally determined needs; and ensures that business, labor, and community organizations are full partners in system design and quality assurance. It targets vocational and adult education funds to educational agencies and institutions with the greatest need, and to activities that promote program quality. It improves the vocational

rehabilitation program by streamlining eligibility determination, improving State planning, and strengthening program accountability. And it includes the youth opportunity areas initiative—which was funded in last year’s appropriations process—that will create jobs and opportunity for out-of-school youth in high-poverty areas.

Proclamation 7113—To Implement an Accelerated Schedule of Duty Elimination Under the North American Free Trade Agreement

July 31, 1998

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

1. On December 17, 1992, the Governments of Canada, Mexico, and the United States of America entered into the North American Free Trade Agreement (“the NAFTA”). The NAFTA was approved by the Congress in section 101(a) of the North American Free Trade Agreement Implementation Act (“the NAFTA Implementation Act”) (19 U.S.C. 3311(a)) and was implemented with respect to the United States by Presidential Proclamation 6641 of December 15, 1993.

2. Section 201(b) of the NAFTA Implementation Act (19 U.S.C. 3331(b)) authorizes the President, subject to the consultation and layover requirements of section 103(a) of the NAFTA Implementation Act (19 U.S.C. 3313(a)), to proclaim accelerated schedules for duty elimination that the United States may agree to with Mexico or Canada. Consistent with Article 302(3) of the NAFTA, I, through my duly empowered representative, entered into an agreement with the Government of Mexico and the Government of Canada, dated July 27, 1998, providing for an accelerated schedule of duty elimination for specific goods of Mexico. The consultation and layover requirements of section 103(a) of the NAFTA Implementation Act with respect to such schedule of duty elimination have been satisfied.

3. Pursuant to section 201(b) of the NAFTA Implementation Act, I have determined that the modifications hereinafter proclaimed of duties on goods originating in the territory of a NAFTA party are necessary or appropriate to (i) maintain the general level of reciprocal and mutually advantageous concessions with respect to Canada and Mexico provided for by the NAFTA and (ii) to carry out the agreement with Canada and Mexico providing an accelerated schedule of duty elimination for specific goods.

4. Section 604 of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended (19 U.S.C. 2483) ("the Trade Act"), authorizes the President to embody in the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States ("the HTS") the substance of the relevant provisions of acts affecting import treatment, and actions thereunder, including the removal, modification, continuance, or imposition of any rate of duty or other import restriction.

Now, Therefore, I, William J. Clinton, President of the United States of America, acting under the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, including but not limited to section 201(b) of the NAFTA Implementation Act and section 604 of the Trade Act, do proclaim that:

(1) In order to provide for an accelerated schedule of duty elimination for specific goods, the tariff treatment set forth in the HTS for certain NAFTA originating goods is modified as provided in the Annex to this proclamation.

(2) Any provisions of previous proclamations and Executive orders that are inconsistent with the actions taken in this proclamation are superseded to the extent of such inconsistency.

(3) The amendments made to the HTS by the Annex to this proclamation shall be effective with respect to goods entered, or withdrawn from warehouse for consumption, on or after August 1, 1998.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this thirty-first day of July, 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-third.

William J. Clinton

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., August 4, 1998]

NOTE: This proclamation will be published in the *Federal Register* on August 5.

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.

July 25

In the morning, the President traveled to Norfolk, VA. In the afternoon, he traveled to Aspen, CO.

July 26

In the evening, the President traveled to Albuquerque, NM.

July 27

In the afternoon, the President departed for Washington, DC, arriving in the evening.

The President announced his intention to nominate Norine E. Noonan to serve as Assistant Administrator for Research and Development at the Environmental Protection Agency.

July 29

The President announced his intention to nominate James Bodner to be Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Policy.

The President announced his intention to nominate Gregory H. Friedman to be Inspector General of the Department of Energy.

The White House announced that the President will meet with Minister President Gerhard Schroeder of the German State of Lower Saxony at the White House on August 5.

July 30

In the morning, the President traveled to Ashe County, NC. In the afternoon, he traveled to Raleigh, NC, and in the evening, he returned to Washington, DC.