

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:50 p.m. in the Imperial Ballroom at the Boston Park Plaza Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to dinner hosts Gerald and Elaine Shuster, Alan D. and Susie Solomont, Jack Manning, and Lyle Howland; Joan Menard, State chair, Massachusetts Democratic Party; Steve Grossman, national chair, Democratic National Committee, and his wife, Barbara; Mayor Michael E. Capuano of Somerville; Teresa Kerry, wife of Senator John F. Kerry; Victoria Kennedy, wife of Senator Edward M. Kennedy; and President Václav Havel of the Czech Republic. The President also referred to the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW).

### **Statement on British Petroleum's Action to Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions**

*September 18, 1998*

I applaud the leadership demonstrated today by British Petroleum with its plan to dramatically reduce emissions contributing to global warming.

By committing to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions 10 percent below 1990 levels by the year 2010, British Petroleum is setting a new standard in corporate responsibility. The company plans to meet its ambitious target through a cost-effective strategy that combines innovative market-based approaches with the latest in energy-efficiency technologies. British Petroleum's bold strategy is further proof that we need not choose between a healthy economy and a healthy environment.

I urge other businesses to follow British Petroleum's lead and help meet the challenge of global warming. And I again call on Congress to help speed this effort by funding my proposals for new tax incentives and research investment to spur energy efficiency and clean energy technologies.

### **Statement on Senate Action on the Proposed "Year 2000 Information and Readiness Disclosure Act"**

*September 18, 1998*

I am pleased that the Senate Judiciary Committee yesterday approved S. 2392, the "Year 2000 Information and Readiness Dis-

closure Act," which builds upon a proposal my administration submitted to Congress in July. I urge Congress to act quickly to approve this critical legislation before the end of this session so that I can sign it into law. If it is not enacted this session, we will miss an important opportunity to help our Nation prepare its computer systems for the new millennium.

Only 469 days remain until January 1, 2000. For the millions of small businesses and small government entities around the world that are just now beginning efforts to prepare their computer systems for the transition to the next century, having access to technical information on how to solve the year 2000 computer problem may mean the difference between success and failure.

This important bipartisan legislation would help businesses and Government agencies grapple with the Y2K problem. By limiting liability for good-faith information disclosures, the bill would encourage organizations to share year 2000 information, either directly or through republication. The increased flow of technical data on solutions will serve as an important jump-start to public and private sector Y2K efforts in the United States and abroad.

Business and government organizations need to be candid about the progress of their year 2000 efforts. This bill creates an environment in which organizations can communicate more openly with the public and with each other about the status of work on critical systems, and thus provide their customers and business partners with useful information about their Y2K progress.

This bill's protections are limited to those that are necessary to encourage greater information sharing. It does not shield companies from liability claims based on actual failures of products or services. Moreover, the bill protects consumers from misleading advertising or other statements when purchasing products for their own use.

This legislation has received support from numerous industry groups and State and local government associations including the National Governor's Association and the National Associations of Counties. It has also

received broad bipartisan support in Congress. In particular, I would like to thank Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Hatch, Ranking Member Leahy, and Senators Kyl, Bennett, and Dodd for their efforts in ensuring prompt consideration of this important issue. It is truly an example of how we can put aside our differences to create vital legislation that is in the public interest.

**Proclamation 7125—To Modify Certain Provisions of the Special Textile and Apparel Regime Implemented Under the North American Free Trade Agreement**  
*September 18, 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 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)(1)(A) of the NAFTA Implementation Act (19 U.S.C. 3331(b)(1)(A)) authorizes the President to proclaim such modifications or continuation of any duty as the President determines to be necessary or appropriate to maintain the general level of reciprocal and mutually advantageous concessions with respect to Canada or Mexico provided for by the NAFTA, subject to the consultation and layover requirements of section 103(a) of the NAFTA Implementation Act (19 U.S.C. 3313(a)). Among the provisions previously proclaimed to implement the NAFTA schedule of concessions is heading 9802.00.90 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (“HTS”), which affords duty-free entry into the United States of certain textile and apparel goods assembled in Mexico, in which all fabric components were wholly formed and cut in the

United States and then exported to Mexico ready for assembly and there assembled and returned to the U.S. customs territory.

3. In order to maintain the general level of reciprocal and mutually advantageous concessions under the NAFTA, I have determined that new provisions should be added to chapter 99 of the HTS to provide that specified apparel articles, which are assembled in Mexico using interlining fabrics that are cut but not formed in the United States, and which otherwise meet the conditions set forth in HTS heading 9802.00.90, may enter the United States free of duty on a temporary basis because the necessary interlining fabrics for such apparel are no longer formed in the United States. The consultation and layover requirements provided for in section 103(a) of the NAFTA Implementation Act have been observed.

4. Section 604 of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended (19 U.S.C. 2483) (“Trade Act”), authorizes the President to embody in the HTS the substance of the relevant provisions of that Act, and of other 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, sections 103(a) and 201(b) of the NAFTA Implementation Act, section 604 of the Trade Act, and section 301 of title 3, United States Code, do proclaim that:

(1) Subchapter VI of chapter 99 of the HTS 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)(a) The modifications to the HTS made by this proclamation shall be effective with respect to goods entered, or withdrawn from warehouse for consumption, on or after the fifteenth day after the signing of this proclamation.