

the emigration laws and policies of Mongolia. The report indicates continued Mongolian compliance with U.S. and international standards in the area of emigration.

**William J. Clinton**

The White House,  
February 11, 1999.

### **Remarks on the Conclusion of the Senate Impeachment Trial and an Exchange With Reporters**

*February 12, 1999*

**The President.** Now that the Senate has fulfilled its constitutional responsibility, bringing this process to a conclusion, I want to say again to the American people how profoundly sorry I am for what I said and did to trigger these events and the great burden they have imposed on the Congress and on the American people.

I also am humbled and very grateful for the support and the prayers I have received from millions of Americans over this past year.

Now I ask all Americans, and I hope all Americans—here in Washington and throughout our land—will rededicate ourselves to the work of serving our Nation and building our future together. This can be and this must be a time of reconciliation and renewal for America.

Thank you very much.

### **Forgiveness**

**Q.** In your heart, sir, can you forgive and forget?

**The President.** I believe any person who asks for forgiveness has to be prepared to give it.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:38 p.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House.

### **Statement on the American Airlines-Allied Pilots Association Labor Dispute**

*February 12, 1999*

Over the past several days I have closely monitored the labor dispute between Amer-

ican Airlines and the Allied Pilots Association. I am concerned about the impact this labor dispute is having on our Nation and the traveling public. With the potential for enormous disruption over the upcoming Presidents' Day holiday weekend, I urge both parties to think of the impact on the traveling public, set aside their differences, and work together to resolve the issues between them. We have a long history and tradition of settling labor disputes in this country under the law. The Railway Labor Act provides the means for the airline industry to resolve these disputes.

It is my understanding that American Airlines canceled up to 80 percent of its flights yesterday, affecting major cities such as New York, Miami, Los Angeles, Dallas, and Chicago, and that it might cancel at least half of its scheduled flights today. I commend the cities, the airports, the tourism industry, and the other major carriers for doing their part to keep domestic air traffic moving. However, even with all of the carriers doing their part, it is likely that thousands of passengers will be forced to change their travel plans. They are innocent bystanders in a dispute that should be set aside over the weekend and resolved at the bargaining table.

Again, I urge both sides to consider the impact their dispute is having on the traveling public as well as the millions of Americans who depend on the transportation and tourism industries for their livelihood.

### **Message on the Observance of Presidents' Day, 1999**

*February 12, 1999*

I am pleased to join all Americans in observing Presidents' Day.

Today we celebrate the vision and achievements of our nation's former Presidents, and we remember with special pride two of our greatest leaders, George Washington and Abraham Lincoln. Though born almost 80 years apart and shaped by vastly different circumstances and experiences, they still shared much in common. Each assumed the Presidency at a crucial moment in our nation's history; each had a clear vision of what America should be and the courage to lead his

fellow citizens toward that vision; and each shared a profound devotion to our country and to its promise of freedom and human dignity. Because of George Washington, America's great experiment in democracy has succeeded; because of Abraham Lincoln, America's Union has been preserved.

Now, as we stand at the dawn of a new century, we have a historic opportunity—and responsibility—to build on the legacies of Washington and Lincoln. Blessed with peace and unprecedented prosperity, we must seize this unique moment in our national life and shape a future where every American has the tools and the opportunity to succeed; where we finally understand that the dreams and ideals that unite us are more powerful than any differences that divide us; and where new generations of Americans can live in peace, prosperity, and freedom.

Best wishes to all for a wonderful celebration.

**Bill Clinton**

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### **Digest of Other White House Announcements**

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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.

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#### **February 7**

In the afternoon, the President and Hillary Clinton traveled to Amman, Jordan, to attend funeral services for King Hussein I.

En route aboard Air Force One, the President met with former Presidents Gerald R. Ford, Jimmy Carter, and George Bush, concerning the Middle East, Kosovo, Russia, and North Korea.

#### **February 8**

During the day, in Amman, the President met separately with Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and President Ezer Weizman of Israel, President Boris Yeltsin of Russia, Prince Charles and Prime Minister Tony Blair of the United Kingdom, President Jacques Chirac of France, Queen Beatrix and

Prime Minister Wim Kok of The Netherlands, Crown Prince Abdullah of Saudi Arabia, President Suleyman Demirel of Turkey, President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt, Chairman Yasser Arafat of the Palestinian Authority, Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif of Pakistan, Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi of Japan, Crown Prince Saad al-Sabah of Kuwait, King Juan Carlos I of Spain, and President Hafiz al-Asad of Syria. The President also met briefly with leaders of Oman, Yemen, and Bahrain.

In the evening, the President met with King Abdullah II of Jordan. Later in the evening, the President and Hillary Clinton returned to Washington, DC.

#### **February 9**

In the morning, the President traveled to Wintergreen, VA, where he addressed members of the House Democratic caucus. In the afternoon, he returned to Washington, DC.

The President announced his intention to appoint James V. Kimsey, William F. Murdy, and Jude W.P. Patin to the U.S. Military Academy Board of Visitors.

The President declared a major disaster in California and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by a severe freeze on December 20–28, 1998.

The White House announced that the President invited Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder of Germany for an informal visit to the White House on February 11.

#### **February 10**

In the afternoon, the President traveled to College Park, MD. Later, he returned to Washington, DC.

The President announced his intention to nominate Paula J. Dobriansky to be a member of the U.S. Advisory Commission on Public Diplomacy.

#### **February 11**

In the afternoon, the President met with Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder of Germany in the Oval Office.

The President announced his intention to appoint Rolland A. Schmitt to be U.S. Commissioner of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas.