

Week Ending Friday, October 6, 2000

**Remarks at Press Secretary Joe Lockhart's Last Press Briefing and an Exchange With Reporters**

September 29, 2000

**The President.** Most people think Joe's leaving for purely selfish, monetary reasons. But the truth is, he told me that I was no longer in enough trouble to make it interesting for him—[*laughter*—that getting up every day and going to work and making policy and helping the Democrats, you know, it's boring him to tears. [*Laughter*] And he said he couldn't stand to be alone in his office crying anymore, and so he had to leave.

So I have one little gift for him, a memorial of our one and only day playing golf together. [*Laughter*] It happened a couple of weeks ago. Here's Joe. [*Laughter*] And the caption is, "Joe, typical day as Presidential Press Secretary, lost in the weeds." [*Laughter*] "Unlike the press corps, I'll give you a mulligan." [*Laughter*]

Let me say seriously, I know what a difficult job this is, and I know it takes a toll on everyone, and I know Joe's spent a lot of time away from his wonderful wife and beautiful daughter, who are here. I remember when I appointed him, there was all this yapping about whether he was heavy enough to do the job. [*Laughter*] He leaves with *gravitas* and *gravy* toss—[*laughter*—and a lot of gratitude.

I know that I have a different perspective than the members of the press corps, but I've been following this business a long time, a long time before I showed up. I don't believe I've ever seen anybody do this job better. I admire you. I'm grateful to you. I'll miss you, and I'll try to keep you bored. Thank you, friend.

**Press Secretary Lockhart.** You don't have to hang around for this part. You don't really want to talk to them. [*Laughter*] I'm still on the clock. [*Laughter*]

**The President.** You want us to go? Well, wait, I've got to do one thing. I have a gift for your successor, Jake. [*Laughter*]

[*At this point, the President presented Press Secretary-designate Jake Siewert with a helmet.*]

**The President.** They're going to try to get even with you, and they're also going to try to get even for everything they couldn't get away with with Joe, so I thought you ought to have this. I hope you'll wear it to your first briefing. [*Laughter*]

**Press Secretary-Designate Jake Siewert.** I worked enough on the Dukakis campaign not to put this on. [*Laughter*]

**The President.** Joe?

**Press Secretary Lockhart.** No, I won't put it on. [*Laughter*]

**Middle East Peace Process**

**Q.** Mr. President, can I ask you, I guess on a serious note, about the violence in Jerusalem, and what that might mean to the peace process, and whether you would like to contact Chairman Arafat to see what you can do?

**The President.** I'm working on all that right now, but I think the less I say about it, the better. I may have something to say tomorrow, but I think today I'd like to say less and try to keep working.

**2000 Campaign**

**Q.** What about the campaign? You seemed to be having an awful good time at that fundraiser a little while ago. [*Laughter*]

**The President.** I was having a good time. It's easier for me when you don't have to run. It's easier. I'm having a good time.

Do the briefing, Joe.

**Press Secretary Lockhart.** Okay. [*Laughter*]

**The President.** Keep me out of trouble. Stay bored. [*Laughter*] Bored.

**Press Secretary Lockhart.** I can do that.

**The President.** Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at approximately 2 p.m. in the James S. Brady Briefing Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Mr. Lockhart's wife, Laura Logan, and daughter, Clare. A reporter referred to Chairman Yasser Arafat of the Palestinian Authority. The President's remarks were included in the transcript of the press briefing by Press Secretary Lockhart. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

**Statement on Signing the First Continuing Resolution for Fiscal Year 2001**

*September 29, 2000*

Today I have signed into law H.J. Res. 109, a short-term continuing resolution for FY 2001.

The Resolution provides 2001 appropriations for continuing projects and activities of the Federal Government through October 6, 2000, except for those funded by the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2001, and the Military Construction Appropriations Act, 2001, which I have signed into law.

In February, I sent a budget to the Congress that funded critical investments in our future. We need realistic levels of funding for critical Government functions that the American people expect their Government to perform well, including education, law enforcement, environmental protection, preservation of our global leadership, air safety, food safety, economic assistance for the less fortunate, research and technology, administration of Social Security and Medicare, and other important programs. None of the funding bills for the programs that support these functions have been sent to the White House.

I urge the Congress to approve the 11 remaining 2001 spending bills as quickly as possible, in an acceptable form.

**William J. Clinton**

The White House,  
September 29, 2000.

NOTE: H.J. Res. 109, approved September 29, was assigned Public Law No. 106-275. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

**Memorandum on Fiscal Year 2001 Refugee Admissions**

*September 29, 2000*

Presidential Determination No. 2000-32

*Memorandum for the Secretary of State*

*Subject:* Presidential Determination on FY 2001 Refugee Admissions Numbers and Authorizations of In-Country Refugee Status Pursuant to Sections 207 and 101(a)(42), Respectively, of the Immigration and Nationality Act, and Determination Pursuant to Section 2(b)(2) of the Migration and Refugee Assistance Act, as Amended

In accordance with section 207 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (the "Act") (8 U.S.C. 1157), as amended, and after appropriate consultation with the Congress, I hereby make the following determinations and authorize the following actions:

The admission of up to 80,000 refugees to the United States during FY 2001 is justified by humanitarian concerns or is otherwise in the national interest; provided, however, that this number shall be understood as including persons admitted to the United States during FY 2001 with Federal refugee resettlement assistance under the Amerasian immigrant admissions program, as provided below.

The 80,000 admissions numbers shall be allocated among refugees of special humanitarian concern to the United States in accordance with the following regional allocations; provided, however, that the number allocated to the East Asia region shall include persons admitted to the United States during FY 2001 with Federal refugee resettlement assistance under section 584 of the Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations Act of 1988, as contained in section 101(e) of Public Law 100-202 (Amerasian immigrants and their family members); provided further that the number allocated to the former Soviet Union shall include persons admitted who were nationals of the former Soviet Union, or in the case of persons having no nationality, who were habitual residents of the former Soviet Union, prior to September 2, 1991:

Africa ..... 20,000