

seek to promote clinic violence while shielding themselves from personal liability and responsibility. It is critical that we shut down this abusive use of our bankruptcy system and prevent endless litigation that threatens the court-ordered remedies owed to victims of clinic violence. The Senate was right in its bipartisan vote of 80–17 to adopt an amendment that would effectively close down any potential for this abuse of the Bankruptcy Code. Nonetheless, this critical provision was dropped from the final bill without public debate, and I fail to understand why the bill's proponents refuse to include this consensus provision to shut down the use of bankruptcy to avoid responsibility for clinic violence.

On the positive side, the bill would improve credit card disclosures—although more can and should be done—and impose limitations on misleading creditor practices that encourage debtors to reaffirm dischargeable debts on potentially unfavorable terms. However, these beneficial provisions are outweighed by the bill's flaws and omissions.

I would have signed a balanced bankruptcy reform bill that addressed known abuses, without tilting the playing field against those debtors who genuinely turn to bankruptcy for a fresh start. I have withheld my approval of H.R. 2415 because it does not strike the right balance.

William J. Clinton

The White House,
December 19, 2000.

**Letter to Congressional Leaders
Transmitting a Report on United
States Participation in the United
Nations**

December 19, 2000

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

I am pleased to transmit herewith a report of the participation of the United States in the United Nations and its affiliated agencies during calendar year 1999. The report is re-

quired by the United Nations Participation Act (Public Law 79-264).

Sincerely,

William J. Clinton

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Albert Gore, Jr., President of the Senate. An original was not available for verification of the content of this letter.

**Memorandum on Assistance to the
Government of Serbia and the
Government of Montenegro**

December 19, 2000

Presidential Determination No. 2001–07

*Memorandum for the Secretary of Defense,
the Secretary of the Treasury*

Subject: Presidential Certification to Waive Application of Restrictions on Assistance to the Government of Serbia and the Government of Montenegro

Pursuant to the authority vested in me by the laws of the United States, including section 1511 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1994 (Public Law 103-160), I hereby certify to the Congress that I have determined that the waiver of the application of subsections 1511(b) and (c) of Public Law 103-160 is necessary to achieve a negotiated settlement of the conflict in Bosnia-Herzegovina that is acceptable to the parties, to the extent that such provisions apply to the furnishing of assistance to the Government of Serbia and to the support of assistance from international financial institutions to the Government of Serbia and the Government of Montenegro.

Therefore, I hereby waive the application of these provisions with respect to such assistance and support. The Secretary of Defense is authorized and directed to transmit a copy of this determination to the Congress and arrange for its publication in the *Federal Register*.

William J. Clinton

NOTE: This memorandum was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on December 20.

Remarks on Presenting the Arts and Humanities Awards

December 20, 2000

The President. Thank you very much, Senator. [*Laughter*] I'm trying to get in the habit here, you know? [*Laughter*]

If I might, I'd just like to say a word of appreciation to all those Hillary has mentioned, to the young people who entertained us at the beginning, who I thought were wonderful, to the Members of Congress who have supported these endeavors.

But I'd also like to thank Hillary for what she has done. She has been the Honorary Chair of the President's Committee on Arts and Humanities, a strong advocate for the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities, the driving force behind our Millennial Evenings and our campaign to Save America's Treasures, which is the largest single historic preservation movement in the history of the United States. So I thank her for what she has done.

It is true, as Hillary said, that this has been for 8 years now a labor of love for me, because of my own personal history with the arts and humanities. But each passing year has convinced me more strongly of the importance of every nation elevating the kind of people we honor today and of the fundamental lessons of the human spirit being imparted in the broadest possible manner.

I think it is quite interesting that we live in a time where there is more personal freedom than at any time in human history, where, in the last few years for the very first time, more than half the people on the globe live under governments of their own choosing. But in the aftermath of the cold war, it's almost as if an artificial lid had been lifted off the darker spirits of people around the world when we see this remarkable upsurge of racial and religious and ethnic and tribal warfare, sometimes leading to breathtaking numbers of casualties and so often leading to hatred and misunderstanding.

Mostly, if not always, the arts and humanities bring us together. By making us more self-aware and more human they make us more likely to understand our neighbors and to be better neighbors ourselves. And so I

hope that in the years ahead, when we literally have an opportunity never before seen in my lifetime to build a world of unprecedented peace and harmony and shared prosperity and interdependence, the work we honor today will become more important to every single American citizen.

That's one of the reasons that I strongly support the idea of a National Arts and Humanities Day, which the President's Committee on Arts and Humanities has recommended. And if I might, I would also like to recognize as a group the recipients of the Presidential Awards for Design Excellence, given every 4 years by the National Government's General Services Administration, to celebrate excellence in Federal design—the things your Government builds with your tax money.

They remind us that with a little vision, we need not settle for the mundane when it comes to the objects, arteries, and architecture that the Government places in the world around us. I'd like to especially thank Bob Peck, the Commissioner of the Public Buildings Service, for his role in our doing better with the Federal Government's construction. And I'd like to just mention the award winning projects. Most of you will probably have seen at least one of them, but you might want to look for more as you move around America.

The new U.S. Census Bureau National Data Processing Center in Bowie, Maryland; the innovative U.S. Port of Entry in Calexico, California; the wonderful refurbished Grand Central Terminal in New York City; the soaring sweep of Interstate 70 through Glenwood Canyon, Colorado; the Mars Pathfinder Mission; the Franklin D. Roosevelt Memorial, here in Washington; the National Park Service's Park Cultural Landscapes Program; the Westside MAX light-rail system in Portland, Oregon; and the Mayor's Institute on City Design, here in Washington.

I would like to ask the representatives of each of these projects to stand and be honored by us. Please stand. [*Applause*]

Now, the honorees for the National Medal of Arts.

Maya Angelou once wrote, "History, despite its wrenching pain, cannot be un-lived and, if faced with courage, need not be lived