

**Message to the Congress  
Transmitting the Report of the  
Department of Transportation**

*January 25, 1996*

*To the Congress of the United States:*

In accordance with section 308 of Public Law 97-449 (49 U.S.C. 308(a)), I transmit herewith the Annual Report of the Department of Transportation, which covers fiscal year 1994.

**William J. Clinton**

The White House,  
January 25, 1996.

NOTE: This message was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on January 26.

**Statement on the 10th Anniversary of  
the Loss of the Space Shuttle**

***Challenger***

*January 26, 1996*

Ten years ago this week, our nation and the world were stunned and saddened by the loss of the crew of the Space Shuttle Challenger. A decade later, we are still moved by the memory of the Challenger Seven and honor the extraordinary sacrifice they made for our country.

Throughout our history, pioneers have dared to dream and live life to the fullest. Like the pathfinders and explorers of our earliest days, like the settlers who pushed our boundaries westward, like the pilots who first took to the air, or the Apollo astronauts who lost their lives in pursuit of President Kennedy's visionary call to reach the moon, the Challenger astronauts believed in themselves and in their mission. They believed in the quest for knowledge and the pursuit of discovery. And each of them—including a special school teacher who touched America's heart, Christa McAuliffe—possessed the rare courage of those willing to risk much to achieve great things.

The people of our space program still carry with them the memory of the Challenger astronauts and keep alive in their daily striving the spirit of the friends and colleagues they lost on that tragic day. Today, our space program is still strong, the Shuttles continue to

broaden our horizons, the frontiers of knowledge continue to expand, and the dream of exploration, as we find at Challenger Education Centers around the country, lives on.

We have been fortunate to view our world from the vastness of space, and we owe a lasting debt of gratitude to the Challenger Seven and all those who have taught and still teach us about our place in the cosmos. For, as T.S. Eliot wrote:

We shall not cease from exploration  
And the end of all our exploring  
Will be to arrive where we started  
And know the place for the first time.

**William J. Clinton**

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this statement.

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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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***January 20***

In the morning, the President traveled to Houston, TX, where he met with the family of former Congresswoman Barbara Jordan before her funeral. In the afternoon, he returned to Washington, DC.

***January 21***

In the morning, the President and Hillary and Chelsea Clinton toured the Johannes Vermeer exhibit at the National Gallery of Art.

The President declared a major disaster in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the areas struck by flooding beginning January 19 and continuing.

***January 22***

The White House announced that the President has invited President Konstandinos Stephanopoulos of Greece for a state visit on May 9.

**January 23**

The President declared a major disaster in the State of Maryland and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by flooding beginning on January 19 and continuing.

The President announced his intention to nominate Elmer B. Staats to the Board of Trustees of the Harry S Truman Scholarship Foundation.

The President announced his intention to appoint Marsha M. Bera-Morris as a member of the Department of Defense Retirement Board of Actuaries.

The President announced his intention to nominate Lawrence Neal Benedict as Ambassador to Cape Verde.

**January 24**

In the morning, the President met with the family of former Congressman Mike Synar at St. John's Church Lafayette Square before the Congressman's memorial service.

In the early afternoon, the President traveled to Louisville, KY. Aboard Air Force One en route, he had a telephone conversation with Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich on the national debt ceiling. In the evening, he returned to Washington, DC.

The President announced his intention to nominate Gen. Barry R. McCaffrey as Director of National Drug Control Policy.

The President declared major disasters in the States of Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the areas struck by the "Blizzard of 1996," which occurred January 7-13.

The President declared a major disaster in the State of New York and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms and flooding beginning January 19 and continuing.

**January 25**

The President declared a major disaster in the State of West Virginia and ordered Federal funds to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by flooding beginning January 19 and continuing.

The President announced his intention to nominate Thomas Fink to the Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board.

**January 26**

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with President Boris Yeltsin of Russia.

In the evening, the President attended the annual convention of the National Association of Hispanic Publications at the National Press Club.

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**Nominations  
Submitted to the Senate**


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The following list does not include promotions of members of the Uniformed Services, nominations to the Service Academies, or nominations of Foreign Service officers.

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**Submitted January 22**

Mary Burrus Babson, of Illinois, to be a member of the Board of Directors of the Corporation for National and Community Service for a term of one year (new position).

Richard L. Morningstar, of Massachusetts, for the rank of Ambassador during his tenure of service as Special Adviser to the President and the Secretary of State on Assistance to the New Independent States (NIS) of the Former Soviet Union and Coordinator of NIS Assistance.

Luis Valdez, of California, to be a member of the National Council on the Arts for a term expiring September 3, 2000, vice Peter deCouch Hero, term expired.

**Submitted January 24**

Lawrence Neal Benedict, of California, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Cape Verde.

Joseph J. DiNunno, of Maryland, to be a member of the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board for a term expiring October 18, 2000 (reappointment).