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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.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

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.

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.