

May 6 / Administration of George Bush, 1991

a much more narrow approach was the right one. A bill that would merely recapitalize the Bank Insurance Fund and make minor changes to the law would be shortsighted. We must fix the fundamental problems in the banking industry, not just fund them. If the Congress fails to adopt a broad-based solution along the lines I have suggested, we may have to face another recapitalization of the insurance fund. This additional exposure of the Bank Insurance Fund imposes risks on savers and taxpayers that no one can seriously desire.

We have taken the first step toward comprehensive reform by laying a broad-based proposal before the Congress. You have

taken the second step by agreeing to take up this proposal in your Committee. Let us now work together to craft the broad banking reform legislation that this country needs.

Sincerely,

GEORGE BUSH

Note: Identical letters were sent to Representatives Henry B. Gonzalez and Chalmers P. Wylie, chairman and ranking member of the House Banking, Finance and Urban Affairs Committee; and Frank Annunzio, chairman of the Financial Institutions Supervision, Regulation, and Insurance Subcommittee.

Message to the Congress Transmitting an Extension of the Iceland-United States Fishing Agreement

May 6, 1991

To the Congress of the United States:

In accordance with the Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act of 1976 (Public Law 94-265; 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*), I transmit herewith the Agreement between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of Iceland Amending and Extending the Agreement of September 21, 1984, Concerning Fisheries off the Coasts of the United States, as amended and extended. The agreement, which was effected by exchange of notes at Washington on February 11 and April 5, 1991, copies of which are attached, extends the 1984 agreement for an additional 2 years and 6 months,

from July 1, 1991, to December 31, 1993. The exchange of notes together with the 1984 agreement constitute a governing international fishery agreement within the requirements of section 201(c) of the Act. The exchange of notes also amends the 1984 agreement to incorporate the latest changes in U.S. law and policy into the agreement.

I urge that the Congress give favorable consideration to this agreement at an early date.

GEORGE BUSH

The White House,
May 6, 1991.

Statement by Press Secretary Fitzwater on the President's Health

May 6, 1991

President Bush has carried out his normal schedule for the day, indicating several times that he felt well and is glad to be back at work. The President is cheerful and absorbed by conversations with visitors to the Oval Office, often indicating that he

feels in the best of health. The President's heartbeat remains in normal sinus rhythm, which means that there is no irregularity.

The White House medical staff continues to monitor the President's heartbeat on a regular basis. A heart monitor has been set

up near the President's study just off the Oval Office. A White House nurse checks the President's heartbeat with the monitor between meetings and at other times when the President is not otherwise occupied. During the course of the day, the President's heartbeat has shown no evidence of returning to fibrillation. Monitoring in the days ahead will be done by telemetric EKG equipment.

The intravenous line was removed from

the President's arm late this afternoon. The bandage remains only to close the point of insertion. The President remains on digoxin and procainamide.

According to the President's Physician, Dr. Burton Lee, "The President's medical day in the White House has been uneventful. He has performed the functions of office while maintaining good humor and good health. No problems of any kind have arisen since he left the hospital."

Remarks at the Presentation Ceremony for the Small Business Person of the Year Award and an Exchange With Reporters

May 7, 1991

The President. Thank you all very much. Please be seated. Thank you from the bottom of my former fibrillating heart. [*Laughter*] To June Nichols, the Acting Deputy Administrator of the SBA; to the SBA regional administrators with us; especially to the Members of Congress with us today: We're delighted to have you here. I just had the honor of signing the proclamation declaring this Small Business Week, and I'm delighted to be with all of you representing small business. Welcome to the White House, America's ultimate mom-and-pop operation. [*Laughter*]

I've got to admit, I'm glad to be out of the hospital. It's a little unsettling to turn on the news and see Peter Jennings [ABC News] pointing to a diagram of a heart with your name on it. [*Laughter*] It's not even Valentine's Day. [*Laughter*]

But there's an extraordinary force at work inside America, a force that does the good work of this country, a force that embodies America's can-do spirit. And that force, as we all know here today, is small business, made up of over 20 million men and women across the land who have taken control of their own lives, made their own choices and decisions; 20 million who stake out their goals and pursue them with determination and grit and vision; 20 million who believe in themselves, their neighbors, their country. And we're here today to celebrate these 20 million pieces of the American dream.

And we're going to meet five of them. You know, the Small Business Person of the Year is one of the most important awards that is. Because it's an award of the American spirit, a spirit that doesn't understand the word "no."

Joann Schulz wouldn't take no for an answer. When an accident totally disabled her for more than 3 years, she refused to put her life on hold. She earned two degrees in that time. And when she couldn't afford to continue with her education, she found a job in the ophthalmic business. She came up with an idea for making products for ophthalmic surgeons. And when she did that she wouldn't listen to "no"—she started her own business.

Joann wouldn't give up on life when her husband died suddenly. Instead, she poured her energy into her work. The results: Sales have climbed from virtually nothing to \$5 million in just 5 years. Her staff has grown from 3 employees to 75. What once was virtually a neighborhood operation now sells products in 22 nations around the world.

Joann has conquered adversity, and she's built a future. And for that, we proudly name her the 1991 Small Business Person of the Year. Congratulations.

Leo LeBlanc wouldn't say no to life, either. Just when his wife developed a life-threatening illness, this corporate vice presi-