

Note: The President spoke at 7:15 p.m. in the Mackinac Ballroom at the Westin Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to Randolph J. Agle, chairman, Michigan Republican Finance Committee; and Michael T. Timmis and Heinz Prechter, dinner cochairmen.

Designation of John B. Waters as Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Valley Authority

June 29, 1992

The President today designated John B. Waters, of Tennessee, as Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Valley Authority. He would succeed Marvin T. Runyon.

Since 1984, Mr. Waters has served as a member of the Tennessee Valley Authority Board. From 1961 to 1984, he served with the law firm of Hailey, Waters & Sykes in

Sevierville, TN.

Mr. Waters graduated from the University of Tennessee (B.S., 1952), and the University of Tennessee Law School (J.D., 1961). He served in the U.S. Navy from 1952 to 1955. He was born July 15, 1929, in Sevierville, TN. Mr. Waters is married, has two children, and resides in Sevierville, TN.

Remarks and a Question-and-Answer Session With the Agriculture Communicators Congress

June 30, 1992

The President. Thank you for that welcome. And to those of you from outside the beltway, as we say, welcome to Washington on this humid day. This Herb Plambeck memorial get-together—[laughter]—some of you may know the dean down there, but it's always a pleasure to see him and see so many of you.

Let me just say a word about our Secretary of Agriculture. He came into this job with considerable experience in agriculture, both out in the field and then in Congress. In my view, he has done an outstanding job for American agriculture. Not only has he worked hard here domestically, the concerns of the farmers very much on his mind, but I can tell you from watching him in action he has done a superb job in terms of negotiating to try to achieve a successful conclusion to the Uruguay round of GATT. And I am very, very grateful to him.

I'm delighted to see Sara Wyant and Marsha Mauzey and Dave King and Taylor Brown. And once again, let me say welcome to all of you.

Before I get into the agricultural topics, I'd like to make a short statement that I hope will be of interest to all of you, indeed, to all Americans. This morning Ambassador Malcolm Toon briefed me on his trip last week to Russia. He went there to determine whether the American POW's or MIA's could possibly be alive there; went there, the full cooperation pledged by Boris Yeltsin before he left. His report makes clear that Boris Yeltsin stands by his pledge, providing us access to Russian officials and opening up the KGB archives. But Ambassador Toon also reports that his search has yet to uncover any evidence that American POW's or MIA's are currently being held in Russia.

As President, I take it to be an article of faith, a solemn covenant with those who serve this country: The United States will always make every possible effort, take every possible action to learn the fate of those taken prisoner or missing in action. Our aim remains a full accounting for every