

rary tax cut of 25 cents per person per day. What's worse, some of them have a bidding war in mind. To pay for that, they'd have to raise tax rates on people making more than \$35,000 a year. Any economist will tell you that the last thing this economy needs is a tax increase.

The contrast between my economic growth plan and the Democrats' new tax-increase scheme could not be more plain. Our plan will cut taxes on investment and job creation for all investors, for all homeowners, for all entrepreneurs. And it will do it without increasing the deficit.

So, to the Congress at this halfway point before the deadline, I'll say it again: Pass my plan. Let's get America moving again.

Come March 20th, if the Democrats send me the message they're talking about now, I will send it right back. I will veto it and send it back. And I don't want to veto a bad bill; I want to sign a good bill. And Congress has a responsibility to give the American people a growth bill right now.

As Pete Silas knows, and a handful of you others old enough to remember, my path to office as a Chief Executive of the United States began in the world of small business. Fresh out of college, I joined a couple of partners and started a little business out in Midland, out in west Texas. It was there that I saw firsthand what the chamber does

to translate business efforts into community achievements. As businessmen we knew freedom's benefits would be stronger if we joined hands to meet our responsibilities as citizens.

Those days, Government wasn't quite as big or rapacious. But even back then we learned that we had to work together to keep Government growth and interference with free enterprise in check. That's what I'm asking that we do today, to do it urgently. I have a solid plan to get America moving again and keep it strong for the long haul.

So when you go up to Capitol Hill, give your Congressmen and Senators a message from me: Get moving, or get out of the way. Let me tell you something, and I say this not out of flattery, but you, you men and women in this room, really can make a difference. There's never been a more urgent moment to win a victory for jobs for all Americans. We've won battles before, and we'll win this one, too. Together we can get our country moving swiftly and surely to a better future.

Thank you all for what you are doing. And may God bless the United States of America. Thank you.

Note: The President spoke at 10:55 a.m. at DAR Constitution Hall.

Statement on Signing the Omnibus Insular Areas Act of 1992

February 24, 1992

It is with great pleasure that I sign into law H.R. 2927, the "Omnibus Insular Areas Act of 1992." This Act creates a new unit of the National Park System known as the Salt River Bay National Historical Park and Ecological Preserve.

By signing this bill into law today, we make a significant contribution to the commemoration of the 500th anniversary of Christopher Columbus' voyages to the New World. We also protect an environment that is important to all citizens of the United States.

Located on the island of St. Croix, U.S.

Virgin Islands, this new park is important for several reasons:

- It is the only known site where, 500 years ago, members of a Columbus party set foot on what is now territory of the United States.
- It presents an outstanding opportunity to preserve and interpret Caribbean history and culture, including the impact of European exploration and settlement.
- It contains a wealth of natural features ranging from wooded hillsides and mangrove forests to tropical reefs and a

biologically rich submarine canyon.

—It is a refuge for migratory birds and a vital nursery for many of the marine animals that inhabit the beautiful waters of St. Croix.

—It will be planned and managed in full partnership with the Government of the U.S. Virgin Islands.

It is indeed exciting to take this major step toward preserving the natural and cultural heritage of the Virgin Islands, a heritage that has meaning for all Americans. I want to thank all of those who played a part in fashioning this innovative partnership between the Federal Government and the Virgin Islands Government.

My action here today is but one example of my Administration's commitment to protect the environment and America's heritage. This is the sixth time I have signed legislation creating a new unit of the National Park System. In the past 3 years, we

have acquired 57,000 acres of environmentally sensitive and historically significant lands for the National Park System.

Finally, I note that H.R. 2927 authorizes new technical assistance for insular areas after major storms. To ensure that hazard mitigation measures truly reduce future loss of life and property, all projects must be cost-effective, cooperative ventures between the Federal Government and the insular areas. The Act will not change this policy, diminish any existing matching share requirements, or change procedures for Presidential disaster declarations.

GEORGE BUSH

The White House,
February 24, 1992.

Note: H.R. 2927, approved February 24, was assigned Public Law No. 102-247.

Nomination of Edward Joseph Perkins To Be United States Representative to the United Nations

February 24, 1992

The President today announced his intention to nominate Edward Joseph Perkins, of the District of Columbia, to be the Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations, with the rank and status of Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, and the Representative of the United States of America in the Security Council of the United Nations. He would succeed Thomas R. Pickering.

Since 1989 Mr. Perkins has served as Director General of the Foreign Service and Director of Personnel at the U.S. Department of State in Washington, DC. Prior to this, Mr. Perkins served as U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of South Africa, 1986-1989; U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Liberia,

1985-1986; and Director of the Office of West African Affairs in the Bureau of African Affairs at the U.S. Department of State, 1983-1985. From 1981 to 1983, Mr. Perkins served as Deputy Chief of Mission at the U.S. Embassy in Monrovia, Liberia. In addition, he served as Counselor for Political Affairs at the U.S. Embassy in Accra, Ghana, 1978-1981.

Mr. Perkins graduated from the University of Maryland (B.A., 1967) and the University of Southern California (M.P.A., 1972; D.P.A., 1978). He was born June 8, 1928, in Sterlington, LA. Mr. Perkins served in the U.S. Army and the U.S. Marine Corps. He is married, has two children, and resides in Washington, DC.