

*May 13 / Administration of George Bush, 1992*

promote a comprehensive approach for helping our youth make the transition from school to the workplace and strive to reach high levels of academic achievement. The lack of such an approach is one very important reason that a significant proportion of American youth do not possess the necessary skills to meet employer requirements for entry level positions.

There is widespread agreement that the time has come to strengthen the connection between the academic subjects taught in our schools and the demands of the modern, high-technology workplace. Work-based learning models have proven to be effective approaches for preparing youth at the secondary school level.

Under my proposal, a student could enter a youth apprenticeship program in the 11th or 12th grade. Before reaching these grades, students would receive career and academic guidance to prepare them for entry into youth apprenticeship programs. Particular programs may end with graduation from high school or continue for up to an additional 2 years of postsecondary education. In addition to the high school diploma, all youth apprentices would earn a certificate of competency and qualify for a postsecondary program, a registered apprenticeship program, or employment.

A youth apprentice would receive academic instruction, job training, and work experience. The program is intended to attract and develop high-quality, motivated students. Standards of academic achievement, consistent with voluntary, national standards, will apply to all academic instruction,

including the required instruction in the core subjects of English, mathematics, science, history, and geography. Students also would be expected to demonstrate mastery of job skills.

My proposal provides for vigorous involvement at the Federal, State, and local levels to ensure the success of the program. It also requires that employers, schools, students, and parents promise to work together to achieve the program goals. Enactment of my proposal will result in national standards applicable to all youth apprenticeship programs. Thus, upon completion of the program, the youth apprentice will have a portable credential that will be recognized wherever the individuals may go to seek employment or pursue further education and training.

I believe that the time has come for a national, comprehensive approach to work-based learning. The bill I am proposing would establish a formal process in which business, labor, and education would form partnerships to motivate the Nation's young people to stay in school and become productive citizens. It will provide American youth the opportunity to gain marketable and portable skills while establishing a relationship with a prospective employer.

I urge the Congress to give swift and favorable consideration to the National Youth Apprenticeship Act of 1992.

GEORGE BUSH

The White House,  
May 13, 1992.

## Nomination of Joseph Charles Wilson IV To Be United States Ambassador to Gabon and Sao Tome and Principe

*May 13, 1992*

The President today announced his intention to nominate Joseph Charles Wilson IV, of California, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Counselor, to be Ambassador to the Gabonese Republic and to serve concurrently without compensation as Ambassador to the Democratic Republic

of Sao Tome and Principe. He would succeed Keith Leveret Wauchope.

Currently Mr. Wilson serves as a member of the senior seminar at the Foreign Service Institute. From 1988 to 1991, he served as Deputy Chief of Mission at the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad, Iraq, and as Deputy Chief of

Mission at the U.S. Embassy in Brazzaville, Congo, 1986–88.

Mr. Wilson graduated from the University of California at Santa Barbara (B.A., 1971).

He was born November 6, 1949, in Bridgeport, CT. Mr. Wilson is married, has two children, and resides in Washington, DC.

## Nomination of John F. Daffron, Jr., To Be a Member of the Board of Directors of the State Justice Institute

*May 13, 1992*

The President today announced his intention to nominate John F. Daffron, Jr., of Virginia, to be a member of the Board of Directors of the State Justice Institute for a term expiring September 17, 1994. This is a reappointment.

Since 1982, Judge Daffron has served as a circuit court judge for the 12th judicial circuit of Virginia. Prior to this, he was a

general district court judge, 1973–81, and a U.S. magistrate, 1970–73.

Judge Daffron graduated from the University of Richmond (B.A., 1961; LL.B., 1964). He was born January 25, 1939, in Richmond, VA. Judge Daffron is married, has four children, and resides in Chester, VA.

## Statement by Press Secretary Fitzwater on the President's Meeting With President Patricio Aylwin of Chile

*May 13, 1992*

In their discussions today, President Bush and President Aylwin stressed their joint commitment to free trade throughout the hemisphere as envisioned in the President's Enterprise for the Americas Initiative. President Aylwin told the President that the long-term vision of the EAI is very important to Latin America and described it as the first chance for a genuine partnership between Latin America and the United States based on free trade.

As a result of these discussions and in recognition of Chile's economic achievements, the President decided today that the United States intends to negotiate a comprehensive free trade agreement with Chile upon completion of the North American free trade agreement, and he intends to send notification to the Congress, pursuant

to fast track procedures, at that time.

United States exports to Chile increased to \$1.582 billion in 1991, including products such as mining machinery, computers, and telecommunications equipment.

Chile was the first in Latin America to receive bilateral debt reduction and an investment sector loan under the Enterprise for the Americas Initiative. By moving forward on free trade, Chile will be the first nation in South America to participate in the trade benefits of EAI.

The two Presidents also took note of the challenges to democratic processes in Haiti, Peru, and Venezuela and reaffirmed their strong commitment to support and defend democracy in the hemisphere through the OAS.