

Feb. 12 / Administration of William J. Clinton, 1993

we do something about the delivery system and the price, we're not going to get there in the year 2000. I want to get there sooner, and I think we can. I believe they'll be a part of this. I think the public outpouring on this is going to be so strong that they'll come along and do it.

I'm still going to try to pass a bill that will permit us to immunize all the children of the country.

*Q.* [Inaudible]

*The President.* Well, let me say, in my State the public health department does 85 percent of the immunizations done. I'm very proud of that. And there are a lot of Southern States that, because of our legacy of poverty, have had

to develop very elaborate public health networks. So this is something that we've been sensitive to for a long time.

I've also been interested in buying the vaccinations. But everything that I've done on public health since—well, ever since we got into public life, Hillary's been a part of. So she's been pushing this, but so has Secretary Shalala. I don't know who to give credit to. But I don't care who you give credit to, as long as we get it done.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:07 a.m. at the Arlington County Career Center.

## Exchange With Reporters Prior to a Meeting With Congressional Leaders February 12, 1993

*Q.* Mr. President, what kind of feedback have you been getting, sir? What kind of feedback you've been getting from the Congressmen and—

*The President.* Very helpful.

*Q.* Do you think the Republicans will go along with you?

*The President.* Well, I don't know. Right now, I'm gathering their ideas and opinions, and we'll see. I hope so.

*Q.* Are you going to cut spending, sir, on the space station and the super collider?

*The President.* Tune in Wednesday.

*Q.* Have you started writing the speech?

*The President.* I've started putting the elements of it together. It may not be as much of a speech as a talk.

NOTE: The exchange began at 3:08 p.m. in the State Dining Room at the White House. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

## Nomination for Under Secretary and Assistant Secretaries of Commerce February 12, 1993

The President today announced his choices for four top leadership positions at the Department of Commerce, expressing his intention to nominate James Baker to be Under Secretary for Oceans and Atmosphere, Doug Hall to be Assistant Secretary for Oceans and Atmosphere, Sheila Anthony to be Assistant Secretary for Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs, and Larry Irving to be Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information.

Baker and Hall will serve as the Director and Deputy Director of the National Oceanic and

Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), one of the Federal Government's key environmental research agencies.

"Secretary Ron Brown is putting together a superb leadership team at the Department of Commerce," said President Clinton. "I am looking forward to working with them to turn Commerce into one of our administration's most vital agencies."

"We have found the perfect balance to lead NOAA," the President added. "With Jim Baker and Doug Hall, we have a team that will bring

great scientific skills, laboratory management experience, a strong commitment to environmental protection, and the savvy required to deal effectively with sensitive issues.”

As Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information, Clarence L. (Larry) Irving will direct the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA). “One of the most important missions that I have charged the Commerce Department with is nurturing the key industries of the future, in areas like telecommunications,” said the President. “Larry Irving has a clear vision for turning telecommunications innovations into high skill, high wage jobs.”

“In addition,” said President Clinton, “with his experience on Capitol Hill, Larry will be invaluable in moving legislation swiftly through the Congress. He will be joined in that effort by Sheila Anthony, someone with the political and management experience to strengthen the lines of communication between Commerce and Capitol Hill. I am so pleased to have a native of Hope, Arkansas, working closely with Congress to get our plans enacted.”

NOTE: Biographies of the nominees were made available by the Office of the Press Secretary.

## Nomination for Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency February 12, 1993

The President today announced his intention to nominate James Lee Witt, the head of Arkansas’ State Office of Emergency Management and a former county judge, as Director of the Nation’s Federal Emergency Management Agency.

“The devastation wrought by Hurricane Andrew last year was a sober reminder that we need to provide strong, organized, and effective

help to American families whose lives are dramatically affected by disaster,” President Clinton said. “James Lee has done an outstanding job in Arkansas, and I am confident he will do the same for the country in his new role.”

NOTE: A biography of the nominee was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary.

## Exchange With Reporters Prior to a Meeting With the Economic Policy Group February 13, 1993

Q. What’s on the agenda, Mr. President?

*The President.* We’re working on the budget. You know what we’re doing. [*Laughter*]

Q. Still?

Q. [*Inaudible*]—all the decisions, sir?

*The President.* No, otherwise I wouldn’t be asking them to meet on Saturday.

Q. Mr. President, have you heard anything from the lawmakers that would cause you to change your mind on any policies that you intend to propose?

*The Vice President.* That’s kind of a broad question anyway. [*Laughter*]

*The President.* I’ve gotten a lot of good advice from them, a lot of good ideas. I’ve basically just been asking them for their ideas, not only

in the meetings here but in telephone calls. And I’ve gotten some good suggestions, some of which we’ve been able to incorporate.

Q. How long do you think you’re going to have to work?

*The President.* I’m going to work a while today and a while tomorrow and a while—

Q. You playing golf today?

*The President.* It doesn’t look like it. It’s warmer today, though, isn’t it?

Q. A little wet.

*The President.* I knew as soon as I decided not to play golf it would warm up.

NOTE: The exchange began at 9:35 a.m. in the Roosevelt Room at the White House.