With regard to the electoral system, at various times the people in democracies, when times are tough, tire of the system they have. In our country, for example, we had a third party candidate get the highest percentage of the vote that a third party candidate has gotten since the beginning of this century.

On the other hand, I believe that the two-party system and the fact that we have roughly centrist parties with majority rule, right of center, left of center a little bit, but roughly centrist parties, has stabilized our political system over the years. Sometimes, people have been disappointed that there weren’t clear-cut differences and ideas throughout American history in the parties, and then sometimes there are. But if you have a majority rule system, you tend to have more compromise and more stability. Sometimes people grow tired of it, and they look for other options. It has happened to us three or four times in our history where a new party has come up, and one of our existing parties has disappeared over 217 years. But it has served us well, I believe, on balance. Nearly any student of American history would say that we have been served well by that system. Now, whether it will work in Italy is a decision you’ll have to make.

Prime Minister Ciampi. First of all, I would like to add a few points, Mr. President, and they will be very brief and very clear. First of all, no new party in Italy or no party at all questions the unity of Italy. The second point is that the Italian Parliament is currently studying electoral reform to solve the institutional problems of Italy. Second of all, the Italian Government—and I would hope that you would read the relative documentation—is fully supporting the electoral reform and is making it the number one priority.

The President. Thank you very much.
Q. Progress on trade talks?
The President. You know, I was out at the university, and then I came directly back here to meet with the Prime Minister. So I’ve received no report. I can’t say.

NOTE: The President’s 20th news conference began at noon in the Wakakusa Room at the Okura Hotel. Prime Minister Ciampi spoke in Italian, and his remarks were translated by an interpreter.

Exchange With Reporters Prior to the Opening Session of the Economic Summit in Tokyo
July 7, 1993

Trade Negotiations

Q. Mr. President, what do you hope to accomplish at this first summit meeting?
The President. My spokesperson over there, she has my proxy. [Laughter]

Well, we’re off to a good start. We hope to get the Uruguay round going again, and we have very encouraging news on that. We hope we can promote growth in our economies and jobs for our people, all of us do. And I think we will do what we can to support reform in Russia. So there are lots of things—

Q. Do you think there will be success on the Uruguay round, sir?
The President. I certainly hope so. I think there will be an announcement on that later today.

Prime Minister Miyazawa. [Inaudible]—made great headway.

Q. Great headway, did you say, Mr. Prime Minister?
Prime Minister Miyazawa. Yes.
The President. Our people worked almost all night last night. A great advantage for the Americans, since they couldn’t sleep anyway. [Laughter]

[At this point, one group of reporters left the room, and another group entered.]

Q. Mr. Prime Minister, do you have any message—world community as you lead this meeting?
Prime Minister Miyazawa. [Inaudible]—contribute to the prosperity—of the whole world.

[At this point, the second group of reporters left the room, and a third group entered.]

Q. Is there progress on the Japanese trade
talks, Mr. President?

The President. They’re working hard. I think the big news today will be on the manufacturing goods in the GATT round, and we’ll have an announcement about that later today. It will be a big deal for Americans, lots of jobs involved if it works. And we’re hopeful.

NOTE: The exchange began at approximately 2:15 p.m. at the Akasaka Palace. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this news conference.

Nomination for Ambassadors and U.S. Attorneys

July 7, 1993

The President has announced his intention to nominate the following to the position of U.S. Attorney: John W. Raley, Jr., of Oklahoma; Charles R. Tetzlaff of Vermont; and William D. Wilmoth of West Virginia.

The President also intends to nominate Walter Carrington to be Ambassador to Nigeria and Theodore E. Russell to be Ambassador to the Slovak Republic.

“With these U.S. Attorney appointments we will continue to place skilled and dedicated professionals in the Justice Department,” the President said. “With the addition of Charles Tetzlaff and William Wilmoth and the reappointment of Attorney Raley, I believe the American public and the judicial system will be well served.”

The President called Walter C. Carrington “a career professional whose affiliation with several renowned international agencies, including several associated with African issues, makes him a sound choice for the Nigerian post.”

“Theodore Russell,” the President said, “has demonstrated a talent and dedication for foreign service throughout his career, and I will be pleased to make his nomination official.”

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

Remarks on the Market Access Agreement and an Exchange With Reporters in Tokyo

July 7, 1993

The President. Ladies and gentlemen, I want to read a statement about the market access agreement that was reached. Ambassador Kantor, I know, has already been down here answering your questions, and Secretary Christopher and Secretary Bentsen are here.

I want to try to explain why I can’t take a broad range of questions on the G-7 summit. Under the rules of the summit, we can’t discuss what’s going on while it’s going on unless we get an exemption. Since we’ve actually made an agreement on this, I can make the following statement.

The breakthrough achieved today in the international trade talks is good news for America and good news for the world. It means more jobs and higher incomes for our people. While there are difficult negotiations ahead, today’s agreement on manufactured goods breaks the logjam in the Uruguay round. For years, talks in that round have languished. G-7 leaders have emerged from these summits pledging renewed commitment to complete the round. Their pledges have gone unfulfilled. But this year, we have recaptured the momentum.

If we can complete the Uruguay round by the end of this year, and I believe we can now, then this agreement will bring the largest tariff reductions ever. It will lower duties on 18 categories of manufactured goods from paper to chemicals to electronics. It eliminates tariffs entirely, that is, it creates global free trade for eight major sectors including farm implements, steels, and pharmaceuticals. This agreement means new jobs and new growth in the United States and in other nations. It proves that gov-