ing laws, is expediting the adjudication of entry
claims raised by migrants who are the victims
of organized criminal smuggling schemes.

All of these actions, taken together, signal the
United States abhorrence of the trafficking in
human beings for profit and our determination
to combat this illegal activity. At the same time,
they reaffirm our Nation’s commitment to safeguarding the protection of bona fide refugees.

I urge the prompt and favorable consideration
of this legislative proposal by the Congress.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

The White House,

Exchange With Reporters Prior to a Meeting With Midwestern Governors

July 27, 1993

Disaster Assistance and Economic Program

Q. Mr. President, do you have any problem
with Senator Boren’s idea for a budget summit?

The President. Let me make a statement, first
of all, about what we’re here for.

I want to welcome the Governors from the
States afflicted by the floods to Washington, and
I’m very encouraged by the work they’ve been
doing here today. Of course, we hope the legis-
ation will pass the House today, and if it does
then when it moves on to the Senate it is our
intention, as I indicated when I was in St. Louis,
based on Mr. Panetta’s figures, to ask that the
relief package be increased by another $1.1 bil-
ion which will take us to just slightly above
$4 billion. And of course, we’re still collecting
damage estimates. It may get worse because it’s
still going on in some places. But I’m very hope-
ful that we can push this through and work
this through. And of course, there are a lot
of other issues the Governors want to talk about
and deal with that we’re going to try to help
them on some. I’m encouraged by that.

In terms of the other question you asked me,
go back to 1990. You know, I will say again,
that the strongest reaction I got yesterday in
Chicago with that highly bipartisan crowd was
when I said we need to make a decision and
go on with other things.

If you look at what happened in 1990, there
was this sort of delay. If you delay it a couple
of months you’re going to have less deficit re-
duction, higher interest rates, more fragility and
uncertainty in the economy, more consumer
confidence going down. We have been working
on this.

We have other things to do. The American
people want us to solve the health care crisis,
deal with welfare reform, to pass a crime bill.
We have a whole range of other issues out
there. The Congress is strangled from doing
anything else until we put this budget issue be-
hind us. So the time has come to act. We just
need to move and go on and almost everything
else that needs to be done, I hope and believe
we’ll have bipartisan support and we’ll meet the
needs of this country. Nobody wants to reduce
the deficit because—the reason it got so bad
as it did is that there were tough decisions re-
quired to turn it around. And I think to delay
it while we nibble around the edges would be
a serious error.

NOTE: The exchange began at 1:54 p.m. in the
Cabinet Room at the White House. A tape was
not available for verification of the content of
these remarks.

Remarks on the Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act

July 27, 1993

It is great to see all of you. You know, I
heard Tom’s speech outside, and I want to say,
first of all, how grateful I am, as an American,
to Tom Harkin and Steny Hoyer and all of

1198