

proach to Russia and the approach of Mr. Bush? And why did you cite Akhmatova in the last part of your speech?

*The President.* Let me say, first, I do not wish to compare myself with President Bush or anyone else. I can't say what was in his heart about Russia. I can say that since I was a boy, I have been personally fascinated with the history, the music, and the culture and the literature of Russia. I have been thrilled by Russian music since I was a serious student of music, for more than 30 years now. I have read major Russian novelists and many of your poets and followed your ballet and tried to know as much as I could about your history.

And I went to the Soviet Union, but it was then the Soviet Union—you may know, it was a big issue in the last Presidential campaign that I spent the first week of 1970 alone in Moscow—and did not return again until 3 days before Mr. Yeltsin was elected President. But all that time I was away, I was following events

there very closely and hoping for the day when we could be genuine partners. So I have always had a personal feeling about Russia.

I remember, for example—a lot of you know I like music very much—one of the most moving experiences for me as a musician was when Leonard Bernstein took the New York Philharmonic to Moscow and played Shostakovich's Fifth Symphony to the Russians. And he played the last movement more rapidly than anyone had ever played it before because it was technically so difficult. That is something I followed very closely when it occurred.

These are things that have always had a big impact on my life. And I had just always hoped that someday, if I ever had the chance to, I could play a role in seeing our two countries become closer partners.

NOTE: The question-and-answer session began at 2:46 p.m. at Canada Place.

## Exchange With Reporters En Route to the Opening Day Baseball Game in Baltimore, Maryland

April 5, 1993

### *Affirmative Action in Baseball*

Q. Mr. President, what do you think of Jesse Jackson's protest today?

*The President.* I think it's an informational protest. I think it's fine. The owners put out a statement a few days ago which they say was the first step in, you know, efforts to increase minority ownership and minority increases in management. I think we should. I'm encouraged by Don Baylor's appointment out in Colorado. And I think it's time to make a move on that front. So, I think it's a legitimate issue, and I think it's, like I said, it's an informational picket and not an attempt to get people not to go to the game. So, I think it's good.

Q. Do you think they're moving fast enough?

*The President.* Well, I think that it was a good first step. And I think you'll see some movement now. And I think it's an issue that deserves some attention, and they're obviously going to give it some. And I think that Reverend Jackson being out there will highlight the issue. So I think it's fine.

### *Stimulus Package*

Q. Mr. President, how about the logjam in the Senate on the economic stimulus plan? Do you think they'll be able to break that and get cloture?

*The President.* I don't know. We're working at it. I mean, it's a classic—there was an article in the paper today, one of the papers I saw, which pretty well summed it up. They said, you know, it's just a political power play. In the Senate the majority does not rule. It's not like the country. It's not like the House. If the minority chooses, they can stop majority rule. And that's what they're doing. There are a lot of Republican Senators who have told people that they might vote for the stimulus program but there's enormous partisan political pressure not to do it.

And of course, what it means is that in this time when no new jobs are being created even though there seems to be an economic recovery, it means that for political purposes they're willing to deny jobs to places like Baltimore and

*Apr. 5 / Administration of William J. Clinton, 1993*

Dallas and Houston and Pittsburgh and Philadelphia and Portland and Seattle. It's very sad. I mean, the block grant program was designed to create jobs in a hurry based on local priorities, and it's one that the Republicans had always championed. Just about the only Democrat champions of the program were people like me who were out there at the grassroots level, Governors and Senators. I just think it's real sad that they have chosen to exert the minority mus-

cle in a way that will keep Americans out of work. I think it's a mistake.

NOTE: The exchange began at 11:45 a.m. aboard the MARC train en route to Oriole Park at Camden Yards. In his remarks, the President referred to civil rights leader Jesse Jackson. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

## Message to the Congress Transmitting a Report on Hazardous Materials Transportation

*April 5, 1993*

*To the Congress of the United States:*

In accordance with the requirements of section 109(e) of the Hazardous Materials Transportation Act (Public Law 93-633); 49 U.S.C. 108(e)), I transmit herewith the Annual Report

on Hazardous Materials Transportation for calendar year 1991.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

The White House,  
April 5, 1993.

## Nomination for Posts at the Departments of Defense and Labor

*April 5, 1993*

The President today announced his intention to nominate two more Assistant Secretaries at the Department of Defense and an Administrator at the Department of Labor. Additionally, the President announced the nomination of five other men and women to Defense and Labor posts.

The President announced his intention to nominate Lt. Gen. Emmett Paige, Jr., as Assistant Secretary for Command, Control and Communications at the Department of Defense, Deborah Lee as Assistant Secretary for Reserve Affairs at the Department of Defense, and Maria Echaveste as Administrator of the Wage and Hour Division at the Department of Labor. In addition, the President announced the following appointments: Colleen Preston, Deputy Under Secretary for Acquisition, Department of

Defense; Sherri Wasserman Goodman, Deputy Under Secretary for Environmental Security, Department of Defense; William Lynn, Director, Program Analysis and Evaluation, Department of Defense; Joyce Miller, Executive Director, Glass Ceiling Commission, Department of Labor; and Charles Richards, Director, Office of the New American Workplace, Department of Labor.

"These men and women, with their collective experience, intelligence, and commitment to making Government work for the American people, will add to the excellent staffs already at work with both Secretaries Aspin and Reich," the President said.

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