

Apr. 21 / Administration of William J. Clinton, 1993

trained in the world;

- Help States and local communities involve public officials, teachers, parents, students, and business leaders in designing and reforming schools; and
- Increase flexibility for States and school districts by waiving regulations and other requirements that might impede reforms.

Though voluntary, the pursuit of these goals must be the work of our Nation as a whole.

Ten years ago this month, *A Nation At Risk* was released. Its warnings still ring true. It is time to act boldly. It is time to rekindle the dream that good schools offer.

I urge the Congress to take prompt and favorable action on this legislation.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

The White House,  
April 21, 1993.

## Nomination for Secretary of the Navy *April 21, 1993*

The President announced today that he intends to nominate John Dalton, an Annapolis graduate and former Chairman of the Federal Home Loan Bank Board, to be Secretary of the Navy.

“Throughout his distinguished Navy career and his equally distinguished civilian career in public service and private industry, John Dalton

has displayed true leadership ability,” said the President. “I am proud that he has agreed to serve with me and confident that he will work with Secretary Aspin and the Navy to adjust to the new security realities that we face.”

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

## Remarks at the Dedication of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum *April 22, 1993*

Thank you very much, Mr. Vice President, Mrs. Gore, President and Mrs. Herzog, distinguished leaders of nations from around the world who have come here to be with us today, the leaders of our Congress, and the citizens of America, and especially to Mr. Meyerhoff and all of those who worked so hard to make this day possible, and even more to those who have spoken already on this program, whose lives and words bear eloquent witness to why we have come here today.

It is my purpose on behalf of the United States to commemorate this magnificent museum, meeting as we do among memorials, within the sight of the memorial to Thomas Jefferson, the author of our freedom, near where Abraham Lincoln is seated, who gave his life so that our Nation might extend its mandate of freedom to all who live within our borders. We gather near the place where the legendary

and recently departed Marian Anderson sang songs of freedom and where Martin Luther King summoned us all to dream and work together. Here on the town square of our national life, on this 50th anniversary of the Warsaw Uprising, at Eisenhower Plaza on Raoul Wallenberg Place, we dedicate the United States Holocaust Museum and so bind one of the darkest lessons in history to the hopeful soul of America.

As we have seen already today, this museum is not for the dead alone nor even for the survivors who have been so beautifully represented; it is perhaps most of all for those of us who were not there at all, to learn the lessons, to deepen our memories and our humanity, and to transmit these lessons from generation to generation.

The Holocaust, to be sure, transformed the entire 20th century, sweeping aside the Enlightenment hope that evil somehow could be per-

manently vanished from the face of the Earth, demonstrating there is no war to end all war, that the struggle against the basest tendencies of our nature must continue forever and ever.

The Holocaust began when the most civilized country of its day unleashed unprecedented acts of cruelty and hatred, abetted by perversions of science, philosophy, and law. A culture, which produced Goethe, Schiller, and Beethoven, then brought forth Hitler and Himmler, the merciless hordes, who themselves were educated, as others who were educated stood by and did nothing. Millions died for who they were, how they worshiped, what they believed, and who they loved. But one people, the Jews, were immutably marked for total destruction. They who were among their nation's most patriotic citizens, whose extinction served no military purpose nor offered any political gain, they who threatened no one were slaughtered by an efficient, unrelenting bureaucracy, dedicated solely to a radical evil with a curiously antiseptic title: The Final Solution.

The Holocaust reminds us forever that knowledge divorced from values can only serve to deepen the human nightmare, that a head without a heart is not humanity. For those of us here today representing the nations of the West, we must live forever with this knowledge. Even as our fragmentary awareness of crimes grew into indisputable facts, far too little was done. Before the war even started, doors to liberty were shut. And even after the United States and the Allies attacked Germany, rail lines to the camps within miles of military-significant targets were left undisturbed.

Still there were, as has been noted, many deeds of singular courage and resistance: the Danes and the Bulgarians, men like Emmanuel Ringelbaum, who died after preserving in metal milk cans the history of the Warsaw ghetto; Janusz Korczak, who stayed with children until their last breaths at Treblinka; and Raoul Wallenberg, who perhaps rescued as many as 100,000 Hungarian Jews; and those known and those never to be known, who manned the thin line of righteousness, who risked and lost their lives to save others, accruing no advantage to themselves but nobly serving the larger cause of humanity.

As the war ended, these rescuers were joined by our military forces who, alongside the allied armies, played the decisive role in bringing the Holocaust to an end. Overcoming the shock of

discovery, they walked survivors from those dark, dark places into the sweet sunlight of redemption, soldiers and survivors being forever joined in history and humanity. This place is their place, too, for them as for us, to memorialize the past and steel ourselves for the challenges of tomorrow.

We must all now frankly admit that there will come a time in the not too distant future when the Holocaust will pass from living reality and shared experience to memory and to history. To preserve this shared history of anguish, to keep it vivid and real so that evil can be combated and contained, we are here to consecrate this memorial and contemplate its meaning for us. For more than any other event, the Holocaust gave rise to the universal declaration of human rights, the charter of our common humanity. And it contributed, indeed made certain, the long overdue creation of the nation of Israel.

Now, with the demise of communism and the rise of democracy out of the ashes of former Communist states, with the end of the cold war, we must not only rejoice in so much that is good in the world but recognize that not all in this new world is good. We learn again and again that the world has yet to run its course of animosity and violence.

Ethnic cleansing in the former Yugoslavia is but the most brutal and blatant and ever-present manifestation of what we see also with the oppression of the Kurds in Iraq, the abusive treatment of the Baha'i in Iran, the endless race-based violence in South Africa. And in many other places we are reminded again and again how fragile are the safeguards of civilization. So do the depraved and insensate bands now loose in the modern world. Look at the liars and the propagandists among us, the skinheads and the Liberty Lobby here at home, the Afrikaaners resistance movement in South Africa, the Radical Party of Serbia, the Russian blackshirts. With them we must all compete for the interpretation and the preservation of history, of what we know and how we should behave.

The evil represented in this museum is incontestable. But as we are its witness, so must we remain its adversary in the world in which we live; so we must stop the fabricators of history and the bullies as well. Left unchallenged, they would still prey upon the powerless, and we must not permit that to happen again.

To build bulwarks against this kind of evil,

we know there is but one path to take. It is the direction opposite that which produced the Holocaust; it is that which recognizes that among all our differences, we still cannot ever separate ourselves one from another. We must find in our diversity our common humanity. We must reaffirm that common humanity, even in the darkest and deepest of our own disagreements.

Sure, there is new hope in this world. The emergence of new, vibrant democratic states, many of whose leaders are here today, offers a shield against the inhumanity we remember. And it is particularly appropriate that this museum is here in this magnificent city, an enduring tribute to democracy. It is a constant reminder of our duty to build and nurture the institutions of public tranquility and humanity.

It occurs to me that some may be reluctant to come inside these doors because the photographs and remembrance of the past impart more pain than they can bear. I understand that. I walked through the museum on Monday night and spent more than 2 hours. But I think that our obligations to history and posterity alike should beckon us all inside these doors. It is a journey that I hope every American who comes to Washington will take, a journey I hope all the visitors to this city from abroad will make.

I believe that this museum will touch the life of everyone who enters and leave everyone forever changed: a place of deep sadness and a sanctuary of bright hope, an ally of education

against ignorance, of humility against arrogance, an investment in a secure future against whatever insanity lurks ahead. If this museum can mobilize morality, then those who have perished will thereby gain a measure of immortality.

I know this is a difficult day for those we call survivors. Those of us born after the war cannot yet fully comprehend their sorrow or pain. But if our expressions are inadequate to this moment, at least may I share these words inscribed in the Book of Wisdom: "The souls of the righteous are in the hands of God, and no torment shall touch them. In the eyes of fools they seem to die. Their passing away was thought to be an affliction, and their going forth from us, utter destruction. But they are in peace."

On this day of triumphant reunion and celebration, I hope those who have survived have found their peace. Our task, with God's blessing upon our souls and the memories of the fallen in our hearts and minds, is to the ceaseless struggle to preserve human rights and dignity. We are now strengthened and will be forever strengthened by remembrance. I pray that we shall prevail.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:43 p.m. at the Memorial. In his remarks, he referred to Chaim Herzog, President of Israel, and Harvey M. Meyerhoff, Chairman, U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council.

## Remarks on Presenting the American Cancer Society Courage Awards and an Exchange With Reporters

*April 22, 1993*

*The President.* Ladies and gentlemen, these are the annual American Cancer Society Courage Awards. And the certificate salutes the two people I'll present the awards to for personal courage in the battle against cancer and for a message of hope and inspiration given to all Americans in the fight for life and health.

We have here to my right Dr. Reginald Ho, the president of the American Cancer Society; Stanley Shmichkiss, who is the chairman of the board of the Cancer Society; Dr. John Seffrin, the national executive vice president and chief staff officer of the Cancer Society.

The young gentleman to my right is Mr. Jeremy Fleury, who is here with his mother, Sharon. And I want to tell you a little about him. He is 13, same age as my daughter. He's undergone treatment for non-Hodgkin's lymphoma way back in 1989, and since then he's been in clinical remission. He's a very brave young man, and he's from Clovis, New Mexico.

So I want to give you this. I'll let you hold it so everyone can see it.

And further to the left is Matilda Goodridge,