

May 6 / Administration of William J. Clinton, 1993

Nomination for Posts at the Department of State May 6, 1993

The President named two experienced environmental leaders to Senior Executive Service positions at the State Department today. Rafe Pomerance will serve as Deputy Assistant Secretary for the Environment, Health, and Natural Resources, and Jessica Tuchman Mathews will serve as Deputy Under Secretary for Global Affairs.

“The global environment is one of the most serious issues facing our Nation,” said the Presi-

dent. “These two nominees have a lifetime of experience and knowledge in working on this critical issue. I look forward to working with them to attack the pressing problems of global pollution.”

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

Remarks on Campaign Finance Reform and a Question-and-Answer Session May 7, 1993

The President. Thank you very much. Mr. Vice President, distinguished leaders of the Congress, ladies and gentlemen from Close Up. I'm delighted to have the Close Up students sitting with us today at the White House. A little more than 30 years ago, when I was about your age, I came here, and the experience changed my life forever in terms of my dedication to try to do more to help our country work. Thirty years from now I hope that all of you will look back on this day and believe that you were witness to an event that helped to change the course of America, for on this day we seek to reform our political process, to restore the faith of the American people in our democracy, and to ensure that once again the voice of the people as a whole is heard over the voice of special interests in Washington.

Today we're announcing the most comprehensive reform of the political system in the history of this country, a proposal that limits spending by candidates for the House and the Senate; a proposal which bans contributions to Members by lobbyists who lobby them; a proposal which curbs the power and influence of political action committees; a proposal that levels the playing field between challengers and incumbents and pays for it by taxing lobbyists and not the American people; a proposal that plugs loopholes in the financing of Presidential campaigns by eliminating so-called soft money contributions.

We take these extraordinary steps in the bill proposed today and commit ourselves to adopt-

ing it into law for one fundamental reason. Without fundamental change in the way we finance campaigns, everything else we seek to improve in the lives of our people, from creating jobs to providing a secure system of health care, to educating our people better and enabling us to compete in a global economy, everything will be harder to achieve. Economic reform, health care reform, and political reform must go hand-in-hand. The system has to work to produce good results.

Today, by one estimate, Washington, DC, has at least 80,000 people working directly or indirectly to lobby the National Government, a veritable influence industry. The more we seek to change things, the more we draw lobbyists to Washington to see if they can stop the change. To be sure, these lobbyists often represent points of view that genuinely deserve to be heard, and we in Government often benefit from their views. But there are times when these powerful interests turn debate into delay and exert more influence over decisions in Washington than the people we were elected to serve do.

We're fighting hard to reform our health care system. Soon we'll put forward a plan to ensure health security for every American and to control the exploding costs of health care. Already, some special interests have gone beyond consulting about what the best way to do this is, to