

May 17 / Administration of William J. Clinton

Tijuana Sewage Treatment

Moderator. Real quickly, any suggestions?

The President. On what?

Moderator. On how to fix that.

The President. I just think—it's not that much money, it's about \$3 million a year. And we'll just see if we can't, when that particular appropriation comes up, we'll see if we can help on that. I think we should do that. Again, that's something that's not your fault.

Moderator. Mr. President, we're down to one minute, unfortunately.

NAFTA

Q. The question is, with the NAFTA agreement, will you mandate that when a person loses their job as a result of this agreement which our Government entered into, that they would be guaranteed any new job that is created?

The President. I don't think I could do that, but what I think I can do is to identify areas which are likely to be hurt and do more to

direct Government investment there and other incentives to hire people back. And I would certainly do that. But I have to tell you, I think California will gain a lot more jobs than you'll lose if we have the right kind of trade agreement. Mexico is now our second biggest purchaser of manufactured products. California wins big on that. I think we will win more than we lose. But some will lose, and we need to have offsetting investments. I agree with that.

Thank you.

Moderator. Thank you very much, Mr. President. The people of San Diego thank you.

The President. Thank you.

NOTE: The town meeting began at 8 p.m. at the KGTV studio. In his remarks, the President referred to Erskine Bowles, Small Business Administrator; Gen. John Vessey, Special Emissary for POW/MIA Affairs; and Thomas F. McLarty, White House Chief of Staff.

Nomination for Posts at the State, Transportation, and Labor Departments

May 17, 1993

The President named four new members of his administration today, announcing his intention to nominate Richard Moose to be Under Secretary of State for Management, Gordon Linton to be Administrator of the Federal Transit Administration, Louise Stoll to be Assistant Secretary of Transportation for Budget and Programs, and Anne Lewis to be Assistant Secretary of Labor for Public Affairs.

"This is a first-rate group of people," said the President. "Richard Moose brings significant experience in both foreign affairs and corporate management to the task of making the State

Department work more efficiently. Gordon Linton is a distinguished public servant with an unquestionable knowledge of transportation matters. Louise Stoll has been a leader in both the private and public sectors in managing large endeavors. Anne Lewis has a tremendous sense of the concerns of working Americans. I am honored that all four of them will be joining my administration."

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

Nomination for an Assistant Secretary of Labor

May 17, 1993

The President announced his intention to nominate John Donahue to be Assistant Secretary of Labor for Policy. Donahue is an associate professor at Harvard's Kennedy School of

Government and an economic and strategy consultant.

"John Donahue is a leading expert on the relationship between business and Government,"

said the President. “He and Secretary Reich have worked together productively in the past, and I am confident that they will work together now to create policies aimed at giving our coun-

try the most productive, best trained work force in the world.”

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

Remarks and a Question-and-Answer Session at Los Angeles Valley College in Van Nuys, California May 18, 1993

The President. Thank you very much. I’m delighted to see all of you here, and I’m glad to have the chance to come. I’ve had a great time touring some of the facilities and seeing some of the programs that are offered here at this college and meeting some of your fellow students. Everybody here is a student, right?

Audience members. Yes!

The President. Everybody back there? I’m glad to see your president, your chancellor who are here, and Mayor Bradley I see back there. Thank you for coming. And I see we have a number of Members of Congress back there. If you’ve got anything to ask your Congressman, we’ve got four or five options back there. Will the Members of Congress stand up? Walter and Xavier and Tony Beilenson, Congressmen, it’s good to see you all.

I see several State officials back there—the secretary of state, the State comptroller, the insurance commissioner, Michael Woo, Councilman Michael Woo, my friend, a candidate for mayor. Good for you. Good luck.

That “woo” is interesting, isn’t it? Makes a good cheer. I like it.

I want to say to all of you, first of all, I am delighted to be back in California; glad to be back in Los Angeles and to Van Nuys and—[*applause*]. Yesterday I was in New Mexico, and I was at Los Alamos, and I said Los Angeles. They all hooted. So I promised them when I got here I’d say I was glad to be in Los Alamos. So there, I did it. [*Laughter*]

I came here for a very specific purpose today, and that is to try to illustrate what the economic efforts that our administration is making will do for you and how your efforts—can we fix this—

[*At this point, a microphone malfunction interrupted the President’s remarks.*]

—in the work we’re doing to try to turn the California economy around. And I thought that there was really no better place to come than to a college like this where all the people here have already, by definition, taken responsibility for your own future and made a real commitment to do what it takes to be competitive, to develop the skills you need to get a good job, to keep good jobs, and to learn new skills continuously.

I met a very impressive man inside who has got a full-time job, as many of you do, who has been coming back here on his own just to continue to hone his skills, because he says, “What I do requires me to change over and over and over again. So I will always be able to have a good job.” And, this is funny, when I was talking to Dan Palmer, who introduced me, he told me that before he was married and began to have children, he was a musician. And he realized that that’s not a very solid basis for having job security. I thought about being a musician, too, and I wasn’t as good as he was. And I knew I had no job security. So I got into another line of work where I have no job security. [*Laughter*] But, anyway, I understand very much that sort of motivation which I imagine got a lot of you in here.

What I wanted to do was to basically just talk a little bit about our national economic efforts and how it affects California and how what you’re doing here is essential if we’re ever going to turn the economy of the State and Nation around.

First, when I took office, I found, as you know, a Government with an enormous budget deficit. That is, we were running in the red every year, over \$300 billion. Our debt had gone as a nation from \$1 trillion to \$4 trillion. It’s hard to even imagine that kind of money in