

*Iraq*

*Q.* Mr. President, there seems to be another standoff in Baghdad between U.N. weapons inspectors and the Iraqi Government. This is the first time this has happened on your watch. How serious is this standoff? And what, if anything, do you plan on doing about it?

*The President.* It's quite serious. And the United Nations—you've already heard the U.N. speak to it, and I would expect that the matter will have to be resolved one way or the other in the fairly near future. I do think that—I don't have much to add to the pronouncements that have come out of the U.N. The United States has to continue to support compliance with the U.N. resolutions as they apply to Iraq.

*Economic Summit*

*Q.* Mr. President, you said that this is the first time that we're going to the economic summit in a position of economic strength. Another way to view that is that you had a tie vote in the Senate; that you're caught going into conference between the demands for more social spending, more investment, and those who want more cuts; and that there's no margin for error, which is not a very strong signal of the ability to resolve this and to get anything that will pass finally both Houses—

*The President.* I don't think any of the people who have looked at this really believe that we won't get a bill out of the conference that will be marginally changed in ways from both the House and Senate bills that will make the bill

more passable in the Senate as well as the House. For example, the House wanted basically the incentive package that was there but some less tax and some more spending cuts. That came out of the Senate. The Senate obliged the less tax and more spending cuts but did it at the expense of cutting so much of the investments out, because the energy tax had to be reduced as much as it did, not for the floor of the Senate but to get it out of the Senate Finance Committee.

Now, what will happen now is you'll see a negotiation, and they'll try to bridge those gaps. I don't think they are particularly large. I think it's quite encouraging. And if you look at the level of aggression this country has displayed in trying to do something about its economic circumstances as compared with what is going on in these other nations, the political and the economic problems, I think the United States should be very proud. It is not easy to change.

I mean, we've been on an incredible roller coaster ride for 12 years now, just sort of spending more than we're taking in and living by political rhetoric and hot air. And when you try to change, it's not easy. You know, it's the same—my daughter always says when she is giggling me a little that old line about denial being more than a river in Egypt. I mean, you know, it's not easy to change.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:43 a.m. on the South Lawn at the White House.

## Letter to Congressional Leaders on Trade With Mauritania June 25, 1993

*Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)*

I am writing concerning the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP). The GSP program offers duty-free access to the U.S. market for products that are imported from developing countries. It is authorized by title V of the Trade Act of 1974.

Pursuant to title V, I have determined that Mauritania no longer meets the eligibility requirements set forth in the GSP law. In particular, I have determined that it has not taken and is not taking steps to afford internationally

recognized worker rights. Accordingly, I intend to suspend Mauritania indefinitely as a designated beneficiary developing country for purposes of the GSP.

This notice is submitted in accordance with section 502(a)(2) of the Trade Act of 1974.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to Thomas S. Foley, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Albert Gore, Jr., President of the Senate. An

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original was not available for verification of the content of this letter. The related proclamation and memorandum are listed in Appendix D at the end of this volume.

## Nomination for Posts at the Department of Labor

*June 25, 1993*

The President announced today that he intends to nominate economists Bernard Anderson and Katharine Abraham to positions at the Department of Labor. If confirmed, Anderson will serve as Assistant Secretary for the Employment Standards Administration, and Abraham will serve as Commissioner of Labor Statistics.

“Applying adequate enforcement standards and tracking the well-being of our Nation’s work force are two of the Labor Department’s most important responsibilities,” said the President. “Bernard Anderson and Katharine Abraham will fulfill them with rigor and integrity.”

## The President’s Radio Address

*June 26, 1993*

Good morning. I want to talk to you about the battle that I’ve been waging to fulfill the central commitment of my campaign for President: to make the economy grow, create jobs, and make our Government in Washington work again for all the American people.

But first, let me take just a moment to congratulate the FBI, the New York Police Department, and the United States attorney in New York for breaking up the terrorist ring. The American people need to be reassured by the effectiveness and the determination of our Federal authorities at the national and at the local level to combat terrorism. And the people who would engage in these kinds of acts in this country need to know that we’re going to be tough on anyone, anywhere in the world, who threatens or carries out terrorist actions against any American citizen.

Back to the economy. For years, your Government in Washington refused to make the hard decisions necessary for America to compete and win in a global economy. Very often, political leaders told you exactly what you wanted to hear, but they didn’t hear your real problems or honor your values. For more than a decade, the National Government borrowed and spent, raised taxes on the middle class, reduced the burden on the privileged, ran up the huge national debt we now have, and discouraged the

creation of jobs by reducing our investment. Meanwhile, we ignored problems like health care and the cost and availability of that service and many others.

Now, if we want to preserve the American dream, opportunity for those who work hard and play by the rules, we have to change. And change is hard. For the last 5 months, I’ve been fighting for a plan to create economic growth, one that reduces the deficit and brings down interest rates and increases investment in education, technology, and jobs. It requires deep spending cuts and some tax increases, asking by far the most from those who have the most to pay.

Congress is rising to the occasion. Last month the House voted for a new direction, and just this week the Senate acted courageously in doing the same. In the next few weeks, representatives from both the House and the Senate will be meeting to reconcile the differences between the two bills. The negotiations will be difficult, but I’m going to work hard to keep the essential characteristics of the economic plan that I believe so deeply in: at least \$500 billion of deficit reduction in a trust fund so that the