

Nevertheless, I continue to believe strongly that the two issues complement each other; I do not think they conflict. I think that there is an enormous amount of bipartisan interest in doing something to control health care costs as a way of stimulating the economy as well as providing health security to all Americans. And it gives people something to be for, and it puts in the larger context that all these things are being done to try to provide the American economy and bring the American people into a stronger position as we face the 21st century. So I just don't buy the conflict argument. I feel good about this.

Health Care Reform

Q. Mr. President, do you think that the fact the Congress won't let you go forward with any additional broad-based taxes to pay for health care reform, that that's going to force you to so scale back the universal health care that you once envisaged that it won't have the kind of effect that you thought it would originally?

The President. No, not at all. If you go back to my February address, I have never wanted to have any big, broad-based taxes to pay for health care. I have never thought that was right, and I've never understood why you can justify taxing the American people as a whole to pay to cover those who aren't covered, when more than half of the American people are paying more for their health care than they'll be paying today. And when we are paying now almost 40 percent more of our income for our health care than any other advanced nation, I just don't think you can justify that. So I'm quite comfortable with that, and I think when we put

out our ideas and others put theirs out, that the American people will see pretty quickly we can do comprehensive coverage and without a big, new tax.

Q. Do you think Mr. Kantor is big enough to take on Mr. Perot?

The President. Yes, he's wanted to—show them your—he's already wounded, but even wounded, Mr. Kantor is a formidable fighter. Now he's got a lot of good help, too.

Oval Office Redecoration

Q. What do you think of your new surroundings?

The President. I like them very much. I think it's a beautiful rug. I like the couch. I like it.

Q. How much input did you have in this? I mean, is this you?

The President. I like it a lot. A little input. I thought a darker rug would be pretty and would lift the room, and something other than white couches. I like it.

You ought to sit on the couches. He also made them stronger so people don't sink in when they come in here. Did you ever go into an office and sink into the couch, you know? I don't think that's very good, so I wanted people to feel good.

Helen [Helen Thomas, United Press International], when Mickey opened his coat, did you think of President Johnson? [*Laughter*]

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:37 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Message on the Observance of Labor Day, 1993 *September 3, 1993*

On this important occasion of Labor Day, we take time out of our active schedules to honor the working men and women of America whose diligence and energy have made this country great.

These are the men and women whose sweat and toil built this nation from the ground up. They laid the railways, highways, and runways that brought this far-flung land together. They created an industrial machine that became and

still remains the envy of the world. They answered the call in every time of need and forged the military might of a superpower. And, more recently, they have led the world into a new age of communications and services. Their labors have fed, clothed, and housed this nation in good times and in bad.

Despite labor's tremendous contribution to the growth and success of our country, those who worked hard and played by the rules were

once frequently unrecognized and exploited. Yet the cause of labor has advanced greatly in this century because of the determined efforts of brave labor leaders who risked their own security to bring about fair working conditions and a decent standard of living for the rank and file men and women of this country. Labor Day gives us all an opportunity to recognize the pivotal role that working men and women have played in our history.

We are now at the dawn of a new era of prosperity. On this Labor Day, let us dedicate ourselves to the idea that hard work should be

justly rewarded. We still have much to do. The challenges of remaining competitive in a global economy make it all the more imperative that we continue to embrace the ideas of innovation and industry. All of us have our own contribution to make to the success of America. We don't have a single person to waste. Recognizing this, we can celebrate this day by reflecting upon the dignity of labor and the pride felt in a job well done.

Best wishes for a wonderful holiday.

BILL CLINTON

Announcement of Senior Executive Service Appointments

September 3, 1993

The President today appointed eight individuals to Senior Executive Service posts in the Departments of Agriculture and Transportation.

"I am pleased that these eight men and women have agreed to join our team and certain they will each work hard to support the great work being done by Secretaries Espy and Pena to make their Departments work better for the American people," the President said.

Department of Agriculture

Grant B. Buntrock, Administrator, Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service

Wayne H. Fawbush, Deputy Administrator, Farmers Home Administration

Lon Shoso Hatamiya, Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service

Patricia A. Jensen, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Marketing and Inspection Services

Bonnie Luken, Deputy General Counsel

Wilbur T. Peer, Associate Administrator, Rural Development Administration

Department of Transportation

Antonio Califa, Director of Civil Rights

Frank Weaver, Director of Commercial Space Transportation

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

Nomination for the Assassination Records Review Board

September 3, 1993

The President today announced his intention to nominate three historians and an attorney to the Assassination Records Review Board, convened to review Government records related to the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. Named were Princeton University librarian William L. Joyce, University of Tulsa dean Kermit L. Hall, American University history professor Anna Kasten Nelson, and Minnesota chief deputy attorney general John R. Tunheim.

"I am pleased these talented people, recommended by our country's leading historical groups, have agreed to take on this important task," the President said.

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