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Message to the Congress Transmitting NAFTA Supplemental Agreements
November 4, 1993

To the Congress of the United States:

By separate message, I have transmitted to the Congress a bill to approve and implement the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). In fulfillment of legal requirements of our trade laws, that message also transmitted a statement of administrative action, the NAFTA itself, and certain supporting information required by law.

Beyond the legally required documents conveyed with that message, I want to provide you with the following important documents:

- The supplemental agreements on labor, the environment, and import surges;
- Agreements concluded with Mexico relating to citrus products and to sugar and sweeteners;
- The border funding agreement with Mexico;
- Letters agreeing to further negotiations to accelerate duty reductions;
- An environmental report on the NAFTA and side agreements;
- A list of more technical letters related to NAFTA that have previously been provided to the Congress and that are already on file with relevant congressional committees.

These additional documents are not subject to formal congressional approval under fast-track procedures. However, the additional agreements provide significant benefits for the United States that will be obtained only if the Congress approves the NAFTA. In that sense, these additional agreements, as well as the other documents conveyed, warrant the careful consideration of each Member of Congress. The documents I have transmitted in these two messages constitute the entire NAFTA package.

I strongly believe that the NAFTA and the other agreements will mark a significant step forward for our country, our economy, our environment, and our relations with our neighbors on this continent. I urge the Congress to seize this historic opportunity by approving the legislation I have transmitted.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

The White House,
November 4, 1993.

Exchange With Reporters in Lexington, Kentucky
November 4, 1993

Elections and NAFTA

Q. Mr. President, isn't it going to be a lot tougher to get NAFTA votes from Democrats after the election results?

The President. No.

Q. Why not?

The President. What in the world would that have to do with anything?

Q. Well, Members are going to say that you can't get the numbers.

The President. That's ludicrous. That's just a Washington story. That's ridiculous. What about all the mayors that walked in with no opposition that were active in my campaign in the primaries? That's ridiculous. I'm proud of the showing that those two guys had, Florio and Dinkins. They came back from the dead. Everybody wrote them off. Besides that, NAFTA wasn't an issue in any of those races. I just think it's ridiculous. The only thing they need—[*inaudible*]—is doing the right thing for America. And I think they will.

The real evidence is that if people think you're for change you get elected, and if they think you're for the status quo that's not working, you're—[*inaudible*]—and the proper change this time is to support NAFTA.

NOTE: The exchange began at approximately 1:30 p.m. at Lexmark International, Inc. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.