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Statement on Appointment of Assistant to the President and Deputy Chief of Staff

December 7, 1993

I've known Phil for a long time and believe that his integrity, personal qualities, and record of management success will be a genuine asset to the White House.

NOTE: This statement was included in a White House announcement naming Office of Management and Budget Deputy Director for Management Philip Lader as Assistant to the President and Deputy Chief of Staff.

Appointment for the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts

December 7, 1993

The President announced today that he intends to appoint Lew R. Wasserman to the Board of Trustees of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Smithsonian Institution. The Kennedy Center's 30-member Board of Trustees is responsible for the Center's maintenance and administration, including oversight of its $75 million annual budget.

"Lew Wasserman's long and distinguished career in the entertainment industry has been truly remarkable," said the President. "Just as impressive is his commitment to public service. The Kennedy Center, one of our country's greatest artistic institutions, will benefit from his trusteeship."

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

Remarks on Signing the North American Free Trade Agreement Implementation Act

December 8, 1993

Thank you very much. I'm delighted to see all of you here. I thank Speaker Foley and the Republican leader, Bob Michel, for joining us today. There are so many people to thank, and the Vice President did a marvelous job. I do want to mention, if I might, just three others: Laura Tyson, the Chair of the Council of Economic Advisers; Bob Rubin, head of my national economic team; and one Republican Member of the House that wasn't mentioned, Congressman David Dreier, who went with me on a rainy day to Louisiana to campaign for NAFTA. There are many others that I might mention, but I thank all of you for what you have done.

I also can't help but note that in spite of all the rest of our efforts, there was that magic moment on Larry King, which made a lot of difference. And I thank the Vice President for that and for so much else. In the campaign, when we decided to come out for NAFTA, he was a strong supporter of that position in our personal meetings, long before we knew whether we would even be here or not.

I also would be remiss if I did not personally thank both Mickey Kantor and Mack McLarty for the work they did, especially in the closing days with the Mexican trade representatives and the Mexican Government. I'd also like to welcome here the representatives from Mexico and Canada and tell them they are, in fact, welcome here. They are our partners in the future that we are trying to make together.

I want to say a special word of thanks to the Cabinet because we have tried to do something that I have not always seen in the past. And we try to get all of our Departments and all of our Cabinet leaders to work together on