

July 22 / Administration of William J. Clinton, 1994

“Well, I have been saying for 4 weeks we have agreed to dramatically change this plan. We’re going to string it out. We have to have a longer phase-in. We have to have less bureaucracy. We have to have totally voluntary small business alliances, and we have to give a bigger break to small businesses to get them to buy into it. I’ll bet if you go out there and say it, it will be treated as news.” And that is exactly what happened. That is exactly what I said to the Governors. That is exactly what I’ve been saying for the last 3 or 4 weeks.

And I’m glad that it finally is going out to the American people. We listened to the American people, all of us did. So we said—when I sent my plan to the Congress, I implored the Congress to go out and offer suggestions for changing it, for improving it, for making it better. I did that from day one. I am still waiting for someone else to produce a bill who believes there’s another way to achieve universal coverage.

I thought it was a very good meeting because the leaders reaffirmed their belief that our objectives should stay the same: universal coverage, so that we can provide security to those who have health insurance and cover those who don’t. Now, one-sixth of our people—remember, America is going in the wrong direction. Only the United States is reducing the number of people with health coverage every year. Secondly—

Q. But are you going to accept anything—
The President. Secondly, our goals are the same. We reaffirmed them; the leaders reaffirmed them: universal coverage, quality and choice, an emphasis on preventative and primary care, and discipline in constraining costs, not

only for the Government so that we don’t increase the deficit but also for people in their private insurance plans. And we will have a bill in the Senate and a bill in the House that will achieve those objectives.

The burden is then on others. Finally, the burden must go to others. I would remind you now we have the American Medical Association, several other physicians groups, the Nurses Association, the nonprofit hospital association, virtually every medical center in the country, a huge group of small businesses, a huge group of large businesses, and a wide array of others who support these four goals. The bill that we will come out with, I am confident, will reach these four goals. How we reach them is now up to the Congress working with the White House. But the burden is on those who think they have a better idea to come forward with it.

Someday we are going to have to focus on those who have other alternatives. That is my objective. I think we will reach those four goals. I thought it was a great meeting, and my prediction was that if they would go out and say what I’ve been saying for a month that it would make news. And sure enough, it did. And I feel very, very good about it.

Now I have to turn this over to them to answer more questions about Rwanda.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:50 a.m. in the Briefing Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Boutros Boutros-Ghali, United Nations Secretary-General; Salim Salim, Secretary General, Organization of African Unity; and Sadako Ogata, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

Statement on Proposed Crime Legislation

July 22, 1994

For over a year, Congress and others have worked to pass a tough, smart crime bill. I am very grateful to Chairmen Jack Brooks and Joe Biden for their leadership throughout the crime bill debate, and I am heartened to know that the House-Senate conference will convene next Tuesday to begin its final work on the proposal.

We have put together a tough and serious legislative remedy to reduce violence and prevent crime. But until a bill is passed by Congress and signed into law, our work is not finished. I am confident that committee members will act quickly on the conference and that we will see a final bill passed.

The American people have asked us to help in our Nation's fight to curb the problem of violence and crime. We can meet this common goal by putting aside differences and partisan-

ship. By working together, we will enact an historic crime law before the end of this legislative session. The American people demand and deserve no less.

Statement on Signing the Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 1995 *July 22, 1994*

Today I have signed into law H.R. 4454, the Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 1995. H.R. 4454 provides fiscal year 1995 appropriations to fund the Congress, the Congressional Budget Office, the Office of Technology Assessment, the Architect of the Capitol, the General Accounting Office, the Government Printing Office, and the Library of Congress.

In signing the bill into law, I note that this Act, the purpose of which is to provide appropriations for the legislative branch, also contains provisions affecting the operations of the executive branch. As a matter of comity, legislative branch appropriations acts historically have not contained provisions affecting the executive branch, and the executive branch has not commented on provisions of these acts. Since this Act contains provisions that depart from that standard, it is appropriate to express my views on these provisions. These provisions concern the involvement of the Public Printer and the Government Printing Office in executive branch printing related to the production of Government publications. Specifically, the Act includes amendments to existing law that expand the involvement of the Public Printer and the Government Printing Office in executive branch functions.

The Act raises serious constitutional concerns by requiring that executive branch agencies receive a certification from the Public Printer before procuring the production of certain Government documents outside of the Government Printing Office. In addition, the Act expands the types of material that are to be produced by the Government Printing Office beyond that commonly recognized as "printing." In light of these concerns, I will interpret the amendments to the public printing provisions in a manner that minimizes the potential constitutional deficiencies in the Act.

In this regard, the exclusive authority of the Government Printing Office over "the procurement of any printing related to the production of Government publications" will be restricted to procurement of documents intended primarily for distribution to and use by the general public. Additionally, in light of the substantial expansion of the role of the Government Printing Office that would be occasioned by a broad reading of the term, "duplicating," that term will be read to encompass only the reproduction inherent in traditional printing processes, such as composition and presswork, and not reproduced by other means, such as laser printers or photocopying machines.

The concerns raised by this Act reinforce my eagerness and resolve to accomplish a comprehensive reform of Federal printing in accordance with constitutional principles, an effort that began last year with the Vice President's National Performance Review. Reform legislation can improve the efficiency and cost-effectiveness of Government printing by maximizing the use of private sector printing capability through open competitive procedures and by limiting Government-owned printing resources to only those necessary to maintain a minimum core capacity. Reform of Federal printing practices can also serve to enhance public access to public information, through a diversity of sources and in a variety of forms and formats, by improving the printing and information dissemination practices of the Federal Government. I look forward to pursuing this effort in the next Congress.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

The White House,
July 22, 1994.

NOTE: H.R. 4454, approved July 22, was assigned Public Law No. 103-283.