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D. Gilmore for the Southern District of Texas; and Raymond L. Finch for the District of the Virgin Islands.

"These seven men and women have outstanding records of achievement in the legal profession and in public service," the President said today. "I am proud to nominate these distinguished individuals to serve as Federal judges."

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

Nomination for the Corporation for National and Community Service

March 22, 1994

The President today announced his intent to nominate Larry Wilson to be Chief Financial Officer of the Corporation for National and Community Service.

"Larry Wilson is an innovative and dynamic financial manager," the President said. "His leadership at USDA proves that he will be a strong addition to the National Service team. I look forward to working with him and the AmeriCorps participants on getting things done in communities throughout America this year."

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

Teleconference Announcing a Defense Diversification Grant for Charleston, South Carolina

March 23, 1994

The President. Mayor?

Mayor Joseph P. Riley, Jr. Mr. President.

The President. How are you doing, Mayor?

Mayor Riley. Well, I'm doing fine. How are you?

The President. I'm great. Nice to hear your voice.

Mayor Riley. Well, it's great to hear yours. And we're pulling for you, and just keep fighting and working hard. We're in your corner. And thanks for all the tremendous cooperation we've been getting from the administration with our reconversion efforts. It's been terrific.

The President. Well, thank you. As you know, I'm calling you with some good news today. The Secretary of Labor, Bob Reich, is awarding $15 million in defense diversification program funds to the Charleston County Employment and Training Administration.

Mayor Riley. Well, that's wonderful.

The President. We hope it will help to retrain about 1,920 people who are being laid off from your naval complex there.

Mayor Riley. Well, Mr. President, that's great news, and it will be a huge help. We've got great workers with great skills. They will be making a career change, and to get the training to move from one career to another is essential. And this is terrific news for the Charleston community; it really is.

The President. Well, I just want to say again to you what you and I have already talked about so many times privately, and that is that I'm committed not just to training and preparing those folks for other careers but seeing to it that the base facilities themselves are successfully redeveloped. And I know that your BEST committee is aggressively moving forward with redevelopment planning. And I commend you for that, and I just want to tell you so you can tell them that I am, personally, and this whole administration is committed to working with them and making the best use of those enormously important facilities there.

Mayor Riley. Well, that's wonderful. Thank you, Mr. President. We have a great committee. They've done a terrific job and I want you to know, from the people in your White House, Secretary Perry on down, the response couldn't be better and more enthusiastic and supportive.

And as I told you in our private conversation, our goal—and told Secretary Perry—is to make Charleston a model that you can point to of where a major reconversion occurred and occurred successfully.

The President. Well, I know Secretary Perry and the Navy Secretary, John Dalton, have been down there, and I know that the Department of Defense Office of Economic Adjustment has already provided about $2 million in planning grants. But we want to keep going, and we want to assist those workers as they begin their transition to new careers. And I think you've already got a transition assistance center open on the base.

Mayor Riley. We do, yes, sir, a very fine one.

The President. So we now will be able to provide with today's grant the full array of services through that one-stop career center there, including counseling and basic skills remediation and occupational skills training and other kinds of things that we believe will really help to get people new jobs, and hopefully as good or better than the ones they're losing. We're going to do the very best we can on that.

Mayor Riley. It's going to be a huge help, and we are going to make Charleston a model, one that you can proudly point to.

The President. You can do it. I know you can. We'll do whatever we can to work with you.

Mayor Riley. Well, thank you. Thanks for everything.

The President. Tell everybody in Charleston I said hello. I always love coming there, and I hope I get to come again soon.

Mayor Riley. Well, I will. Somebody just a couple of weeks ago gave me a picture of you and I talking on January 1st, 1992.

The President. It was the first stop I made in the new year, 1992.

Mayor Riley. That's right. Well, I've got a picture of us chatting. I was doing the talking, and they subtitled it, "Low country advice." [*Laughter*]

The President. Well, it was pretty high-brow advice from the low country, I'll tell you that.

Mayor Riley. Well, it was heartfelt, and we're very proud of you.

The President. Good luck to you.

Mayor Riley. Thanks for all your help.

The President. Thanks, bye.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:44 a.m. from the Oval Office at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to the Building Economic Solutions Together (BEST) committee on redevelopment of the Charleston naval complex.

Teleconference With the California Medical Association
March 23, 1994

The President. Thank you very much. Thank you, Dr. Holley, for that kind introduction and for your good work and the good work of all the physicians whom you represent now in dealing with these very difficult and complex and profoundly important issues. I regret not being able to join you in person today, but I am glad that Ira Magaziner is able to be there with you. I'm glad I had a chance to visit with you, Dr. Holley, and your past president, Dr. Richard Corlin, in Washington recently, following another health care forum. And I'm grateful for many reasons for your continued good counsel and for this invitation to address you.

Each of you has, in the most personal way, been part of the excellence in American medicine simply by caring for the families in your communities. And I'm grateful that you understand that our health care system needs dramatic reform. You know costs are rising too fast, that paperwork is mounting too much, that every day more constraints are placed on your patients and your ability to practice medicine the way you know it should be practiced.

But unlike so many others in the debate who will only tell us what they don't want to change, long ago you left the sidelines and became advocates for responsible, comprehensive reforms. I appreciate the early and continued support you have shown for the objectives we are trying to achieve: providing Americans guaranteed private insurance, preserving the right of everyone to