

Mar. 25 / Administration of William J. Clinton, 1994

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:36 p.m. at Womack Army Medical Center. In his remarks, he referred to Maj. Gen. William M. Steele, USA, commanding general, 82d Airborne Division, Fort

Bragg; Maj. Gen. Richard E. Davis, USA, deputy commander, 18th Airborne Corps, Fort Bragg. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Message on the Observance of Passover March 25, 1994

Heartfelt greetings to all who are gathered to celebrate Passover.

This joyous festival of liberation reminds all of us of the importance of freedom. The Passover seder, filled with its symbols of confinement and liberty, of pain and joy, has served as a means of teaching each new generation the story of the Jews' liberation from slavery in Egypt. As children learn the ancient account, they understand that freedom is something for which we must continuously struggle and that we must always cherish.

Human history is filled with chronicles of peoples throwing off the shackles of their oppressors

to embrace the causes of justice and equality. As new nations begin their journeys to a "promised land," the lessons of Passover echo in every corner of the Earth. They teach us that while we must be thankful for the freedom we have, we must also remember all those in the world who still yearn to know its many gifts. This year, let us rededicate ourselves to extending the blessings of liberty to all who seek it.

During this historic season of renewal and peace, Hillary and I extend warm wishes for a memorable and meaningful Passover.

BILL CLINTON

Nomination for United States District Court Judges March 25, 1994

The President has nominated three individuals to serve on the U.S. District Court. They are: R. Samuel Paz for the Central District of California; Paul D. Borman for the Eastern District of Michigan; and Denny Chin for the Southern District of New York.

"I am pleased to nominate these distinguished individuals to serve on the Federal bench," the President said. "Each has demonstrated a strong commitment to equal justice for all Americans."

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

Exchange With Reporters in Dallas, Texas March 26, 1994

Health Care Reform

Q. Mr. President, what's the message from this part of the visit?

The President. Did you see the people we saw outside?

Q. Yes.

The President. The people we saw outside either don't have coverage or they're afraid of losing it. These children got this care because this hospital is open to all children and gives all children great care, without regard to their income. But not all children have access to hospitals like this. So the message is that all families

with children should have some insurance coverage so they can get health care and so they can be well like this. It was great.

Roger Clinton's Wedding

Q. How are the wedding preparations going?

The President. Fine. We're excited.

NOTE: The exchange began at 8:22 a.m. at the Scottish Rite Hospital for Children. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

The President's Radio Address

March 26, 1994

Good morning. This morning I'm speaking to you from Dallas, Texas, courtesy of station KRLD in Dallas, and from the Scottish Rite Hospital for Children, one of the finest pediatric medical centers in America. Today in the audience we have parents and children who have been patients here. I want to thank the president of the hospital, J.C. Montgomery, and Dr. Tony Herring and all the others who gave Hillary and me such a wonderful tour today.

Places like Scottish Rite don't ask children with severe disabilities or serious illnesses, "Can you pay?" They just ask, "How can I help?" The wonderful team of doctors, nurses, and other hospital workers here take all children in need. That's what we want for all of America.

Last Wednesday at the White House, Sister Bernice Coreil, a member of the Sisters of Charity, the religious order which runs the largest nonprofit hospital system in America, spoke about health care in a way seldom heard in the Nation's Capital. She pushed all the politics and complex arguments aside and said health care is about basic human values, about honoring the intrinsic value of every person.

She knows, as so many health professionals do, that if we don't do something now, the future of health care is in trouble in America, because more Americans are losing their health coverage or can't get it because someone in their family has been sick, because more people with coverage are losing the right to choose their doctors or their health plans, because more of our hospitals are in trouble.

Without change, the future of health care will include less choice and bigger bills and maybe lower quality, too. Instead of health care being available to all Americans, more Americans are losing their health coverage every month.

How can we change? How can we keep what's best about our system, our wonderful caregivers, our wonderful medical research system, and fix what's wrong, the fact that there aren't enough places like this Scottish Rite Hospital, that too many people are losing their coverage, that the financing system is a bureaucratic nightmare full of unfairness? I think we can do better simply by building on what works in the current system, using the workplace to guarantee private insurance for every American. It is the foundation of our plan.

Just a few days ago, the first of many committees considering health care reform in Congress approved a plan like ours, covering every American. In spite of all the special interest and TV ads, the committee made an important statement. After 60 years of gridlock, the American people are being heard. They want us to take care of their important business, like health care reform, and now we're beginning to do that.

The administration's approach to health care reform is straightforward: guaranteed private insurance for every American that can never be taken away. And we want to be careful to base our approach on the best of American values. Guaranteed private insurance, making sure everyone has good health care, not only those who can pay whatever it costs, is the ticket to opportunity.

When our plan passes and your health care can never be taken away, that means you'll be able to change jobs, move, start a small business without worrying that your health care or your family's health will be threatened. Just this morning I met a fine couple here with twin boys. The boys have some undiagnosed medical difficulties, but they cannot get any health insurance because of that. The father and the mother have been under great stress and great difficulty.