This morning I also signed two other measures to cut the size of Government and improve its operations. One bill reorganizes the Department of Agriculture. It closes or combines 1,200 unnecessary offices, reduces the number of divisions in the Agriculture Department by a third, and reduces employment by over 7,500. The Secretary of Agriculture and all those who worked on this deserve a lot of credit for this important step forward.

The other bill requires the Government to publish a complete financial statement every single year for every executive branch agency. Believe it or not, complete consolidated financial statements weren’t required before this.

Finally, I'd like some help from you and others to get another change or two along this line. Congress has just passed two spending bills that protect several agencies from the personnel cuts that have to be made in order for us to meet the reinventing Government target of 270,000 and to fund the crime bill. So today I’m asking that Congress get rid of these restrictions on our ability to cut back big Government. This is a matter of principle. No agency anywhere should be exempt from doing its job as efficiently as possible.

The American people deserve a Government that works. For most Americans, good Government means a timely Social Security check or better police protection or a tax burden that doesn’t suffocate them. Democracy means little to them if it can’t meet these basic needs except with a Government that costs too much or is too big or too slow or too unresponsive. We can, we must do better, and we are doing better. It’s a part of bringing America back, restoring economic growth, making a serious assault on crime, making Government work for ordinary people again, having a Government that does more with less.

I'd like to close on this note. More than 30 years ago, President Kennedy addressed the members of the Radio TV News Directors Association. About that time, he said this about the press: "Even though we never like it and even though we wish they didn’t write it and even though we disapprove of it, there isn’t any doubt at all that we could not do the job in a free society without a very, very active press." The fundamental truth is that for all the profound changes that have taken place in world affairs, technology, and markets, his words are still as accurate as they were on the day he said them.

Every day, the national dialog that helps to sustain our freedoms is begun by you. Every day I have the opportunity to discuss the work we’re doing directly with the people we’re doing it for because of you. We share fundamental ideals for a free and open society where all can reach their God-given potential and pursue the American dream.

I wish you the best of luck this week and in the months ahead. These are exciting and challenging times, and I think we should enjoy them together. Yes, there are problems, but nothing nothing we cannot face if we roll up our sleeves, pull together, and look to the future.

Now, Marcy, I’ll turn it back to you with a warm thank-you to all of you for the opportunity to speak with you today. Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:37 p.m. by satellite from Room 459 of the Old Executive Office Building to the Radio Television News Directors Association and the National Association of Broadcatters NAB Radio Show, meeting in Los Angeles, CA. In his remarks, he referred to Marcy Burdick, chair, Radio Television News Directors Association.

Statement on Signing the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994
October 13, 1994

I am pleased to sign into law H.R. 995, the "Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994."

Today there are members of the National Guard and Reserve, including Coast Guard Reservists, on active duty supporting operational missions. As their Commander in Chief, it is
timely for me to sign a bill that will clarify
and strengthen their right to return to the civil-
ian positions they held before going on active
duty without any loss of seniority, status, or pay.

The “Uniformed Services Employment and
Reemployment Rights Act of 1994” revises, im-
proves, and clarifies the existing veterans reem-
ployment rights statute, which was first enacted
in 1940. Since that time, a confusing and cum-
bersome patchwork of statutory amendments
and judicial constructions have made the law
difficult for employers to understand.

Among other changes, H.R. 995 extends cov-
erage for the first time to the Coast Guard
and Public Health Service Reserve components.

It also entitles service members to continued
health insurance coverage under their employer's plan for up to 18 months of military leave
and makes explicit the rights of reemployed
service members under their pension plans.

My Administration is committed to enforcing
the reemployment rights of service members.
This Act is key to the achievement of that goal.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

The White House,

NOTE: H.R. 995, approved October 13, was as-
signed Public Law No. 103–353.

Statement on the Cease-Fire in Northern Ireland

October 13, 1994

I welcome today’s announcement by the
Combined Loyalist Military Command in North-
ean Ireland declaring an end to its campaign
of violence. The cease-fire announcement by the
IRA on August 31 and today’s announcement
by Loyalist paramilitaries present the best hope
for peace in a generation in Northern Ireland.
The parties must now build on this historic step
forward and enter into negotiations for a lasting
settlement.

Prime Minister John Major of the United
Kingdom and Prime Minister Albert Reynolds
of Ireland deserve great credit for their leader-
ship and persistence in pressing for progress.

The principles put forward in their Downing
Street Declaration provide an important founda-
tion for a just and lasting peace. I look forward
to the next steps in the process, including the
Forum for Peace and Reconciliation proposed
by Prime Minister Reynolds and the roundtable
talks convened by the Irish and British Govern-
ments with all involved parties.

I am pleased that the United States has been
able to contribute to the peace process in
Northern Ireland. We continue to stand ready
to assist in achieving a negotiated, democratic
settlement supported by both communities in
Northern Ireland.

Statement on Disaster Assistance for Georgia

October 13, 1994

I am pleased that we can provide additional
assistance to the people of Georgia in their ef-
forts to rebuild their communities. I look for-
ward to working in cooperation with them in
the recovery.

NOTE: This statement was included in a White
House statement announcing the President’s deci-
sion to authorize an increase in the Federal Gov-
ernment’s part of the cost-share program for re-
pairing flood-damaged public property.