

Statement on the Court Decision on Timber Sales *October 28, 1995*

I am deeply disappointed in the court's decision to force the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management to release these sales of healthy ancient timber.

My administration's agreement with the Congress on this issue was significantly different from the interpretation upheld this week by the courts. We agreed that the administration would not have to violate our standards and guidelines for our forest plan and for forest management in general, but only speed up sales that met those standards. We do not believe that this extreme expansion of ancient timber sales was authorized by the 1995 rescission act. My administration will actively pursue a legislative remedy to correct this extreme result.

At this time, however, there is no choice but to comply with the court's decision. The decision

forces the release of timber that may lead to grave environmental injury to chinook salmon and other wildlife and damage our rivers and streams. This could jeopardize the livelihoods of thousands of people who depend on the Pacific Northwest's vibrant commercial and sport fisheries.

I have directed the Secretaries of Agriculture and the Interior to work with the companies awarded contracts to seek changes to mitigate any harm to salmon and other species and water quality.

In signing the rescission legislation and in subsequent directives to my Cabinet, I pledged to uphold existing environmental laws and standards. I will continue to fight for those laws and standards.

Letter to Senator Ernest F. Hollings on Telecommunications Reform Legislation *October 26, 1995*

Dear Fritz:

I enjoyed our telephone conversation today regarding the upcoming conference on the telecommunications reform bill and would like to follow-up on your request regarding the specific issues of concern to me in the proposed legislation.

As I said in our discussion, I am committed to promoting competition in every aspect of the telecommunications and information industries. I believe that the legislation should protect and promote diversity of ownership and opinions in the mass media, should protect consumers from unjustified rate increases for cable and telephone services, and, in particular, should include a test specifically designed to ensure that the Bell companies entering into long distance markets will not impede competition.

Earlier this year, my Administration provided comments on S. 652 and H.R. 1555 as passed. I remain concerned that neither bill provides a meaningful role for the Department of Justice in safeguarding competition before local tele-

phone companies enter new markets. I continue to be concerned that the bills allow too much concentration within the mass media and in individual markets, which could reduce the diversity of news and information available to the public. I also believe that the provisions allowing mergers of cable and telephone companies are overly broad. In addition, I oppose deregulating cable programming services and equipment rates before cable operators face real competition. I remain committed, as well, to the other concerns contained in those earlier statements on the two bills.

I applaud the Senate and the House for including provisions requiring all new televisions to contain technology that will allow parents to block out programs with violent or objectionable content. I strongly support retention in the final bill of the Snowe-Rockefeller provision that will ensure that schools, libraries and hospitals have access to advanced telecommunications services.

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I look forward to working with you and your colleagues during the conference to produce legislation that effectively addresses these concerns.

Sincerely,

BILL CLINTON

NOTE: Senator Ernest F. Hollings was the ranking member of the Communications Subcommittee of the Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee. This letter was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on October 30.

Remarks to the White House Conference on Travel and Tourism

October 30, 1995

Thank you. Please sit down. This is not an endurance contest. [Laughter] I am delighted to be here, delighted that this day has finally come. I want to thank Greg Farmer for the fine job that he has done, and the others who are here: the FAA Administrator, David Hinson; the Deputy Transportation Secretary, Mort Downey; Bill Norman, the president of the Travel Industry Association of America. I want to say a special word of thanks to Loranne Ausley Ellis, who was the executive director of this conference. I don't know if she's had any sleep for the last week or two, waiting for you all to appear. And a thanks to my good friend Congressman Oberstar.

I was telling Greg Farmer when Jim was up here speaking that Jim Oberstar, once he gets the bit in his teeth, he never lets go. If Jim had been a dog, half the people in Washington would have rabies. [Laughter] He is the most determined person I ever saw. And it might not be so bad, depending on which half it was. [Laughter]

Jim Oberstar came to me with this idea, and I could look in his eyes and tell it was going to happen. I might tell you also, on a totally different subject, for a very long time he was one of only literally a handful of Members of the Congress who supported me in what I ultimately had to do in Haiti. Because he speaks Creole—he'd lived in Haiti—he knew it was the right thing to do. He knew it was the right thing for our country, for the cause of freedom. And when we celebrated one year of democratic freedom in Haiti just a couple weeks ago, I thought to myself, if it hadn't been for Jim Oberstar and just a couple of more, this might not have happened. So he, in a real way, is the father of this conference, and I thank him for it very much.

I do want to thank the Members of Congress and the citizens of both political parties who worked so hard to make this day possible. I want to thank those of you who took time away to attend this conference. I know there are a lot of people here today, as there were at the White House Conference on Small Business, who don't work for big companies, who don't have generous leave policies and travel allowances, and who really had to make a personal effort and a personal sacrifice to come. And I thank you for coming because I know what an important part of the tourism industry you are.

I want to thank the State employees who are here who work with tourism and the local employees and elected officials who are here. I want to thank the students from the Academy of Travel and Tourism programs who wrote essays that won prizes about encouraging people to visit the United States.

I am very proud that this is the first White House Conference on Travel and Tourism. And I know all of you agree that it's about time.

This industry has been near and dear to my heart since I was a little boy. I grew up in a resort town that also embraced a national park. As an adult I've had the good fortune to travel a fair amount, although as President I must say one of the more frustrating aspects of the job is I go to a lot of interesting places and never get to be a tourist.

As Governor, I enthusiastically attended our Governor's conference on tourism every year. And I want you to know that this is very important to me personally and that this time is a very important time for you to be gathering here.

This industry holds much promise for the future of America. It has a lot to teach us as Americans, as we stand on the dawn of a new