

The President's Radio Address *November 30, 1996*

Good morning. This week, millions of American families gathered around their dinner tables to enjoy our annual feast of Thanksgiving. Now many of us who traveled great distances to be with loved ones are making the trip back home. Today I want to talk about how we can extend the spirit of Thanksgiving beyond this holiday weekend.

Thanksgiving is our oldest tradition. In 1789, George Washington made Thanksgiving his first proclamation for our new Nation. Much has changed for America in the two centuries since that first proclamation. Today we not only feed ourselves well, our bounty helps to feed the world. The light of freedom that drew founders to our shores not only shines here; for the first time in history, more than half the world's people who once lived in the shadows of tyranny and depression now live under governments of their own choosing.

On this year's Thanksgiving, we are reminded that we are a nation truly blessed. Crime and poverty are down. Employment is up. We are a nation at peace. For the most part, foods and jobs are plentiful. Our children have more to look forward to than any generation of young people in human history.

But as President Lincoln once so powerfully reminded us, this country cannot afford to be materially rich and spiritually poor. That perhaps is the greatest lesson of Thanksgiving. For more than any other holiday, it reminds us of the importance of family and community and the duty we owe to each other. I want to thank those across our Nation who donated food or volunteered time to provide a Thanksgiving meal for those among us who are homeless and hungry.

Unfortunately, hunger and homelessness don't take a holiday; they are with us all year long. So we must not wait until Thanksgiving to reach out to those in need. And we must not pack our compassion back in the cupboard like fine china that only gets used once a year. The spirit of family and faith and community that shines so brilliantly on Thanksgiving can enable us to meet every challenge before us all year long.

So let us resolve to go forward together to lift millions of people from welfare and depend-

ency into lives of dignity and independence. Now that we have ended welfare as we know it, let the change not be to have even more children in more abject poverty but to move people who can work into jobs.

Let us pledge to give our children the best education in the world and the support they need to build strong futures, higher standards in our schools, more choices, and the opportunity for all Americans to go on to college.

Let us work together to keep our homes, our neighborhoods, our schools free from the ravages of crime and drugs and violence, finishing the job of putting 100,000 police on our streets, targeting violent teen gangs, and doing more at the grassroots level to turn our children from drugs and gangs and guns and violence.

And let us always remember that when America is united, we always win, but when we're divided, we defeat ourselves. In the global economy of the 21st century, the marvelous diversity of America will be a great blessing if we all treat each other with dignity and respect and remember we don't have a person to waste.

Whenever I travel around the world, as I did last week, I always return home with a renewed appreciation for the rich blessings so many of us take for granted. And while we should be thankful that technology and cultural exchanges are bringing much of the world closer together, it is also clear that people all over the globe still look to America for moral leadership.

As Hillary reminded us last weekend when she visited a project to assist young women struggling in Thailand, we do have a responsibility to help build lives of hope and security for suffering children not only here in America but all over the world. That is what we have tried to do in Bosnia, in Haiti, in working for peace in the Middle East and Northern Ireland, in so many of our efforts all around the globe.

Let me close today with a personal note of thanks to every one of you for affording me the opportunity to continue my service as President. For the past 4 years I've worked hard to stand up for our values as a nation and to give all our citizens the tools to make the most of their own lives. And we've come a long way together, but there is still much, much more

to do. And we know that the only way we can succeed is if we all work together.

So let us all be guided, as I try to be guided every day, by the words of the Scripture which teaches that “to those to whom much is given, much is required.” So as we set our sights on a joyous holiday season, let us all pledge by

our devotion to God and family and community to keep the spirit of Thanksgiving alive all year long.

Thanks for listening.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:06 a.m. from Camp David, MD.

Letter to Congressional Leaders Transmitting a Report on Imports of Broom Corn Brooms

November 28, 1996

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

Pursuant to section 203(b)(1) of the Trade Act of 1974, attached is a report concerning my actions in response to the ITC safeguards investigation of broom corn brooms.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to Newt Gingrich, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Albert Gore, Jr., President of the Senate. This letter was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on December 2. The related proclamation and memorandum of November 28 are listed in Appendix D at the end of this volume.

Remarks on Presenting the Congressional Space Medal of Honor to Astronaut Shannon Lucid and an Exchange With Reporters

December 2, 1996

The President. Good morning. It's a pleasure to have all these dignitaries here today. I want to especially acknowledge Senators Glenn and Burns; the NASA Administrator, Dan Goldin; Dr. Jack Gibbons; the Russian Ambassador, Mr. Vorontsov, who is here on behalf of the two cosmonauts that Dr. Lucid roomed with in space. She just told me she made them Jell-O every Sunday morning. [*Laughter*] I want to welcome Michael Lucid and the shuttle crew that brought her home: Commander Bill Readdy, Pilot Terry Wilcutt, Mission Specialists Tom Akers, Jay Apt, and Carl Walz.

I can think of no better way to begin this season of hope than by presenting the Congressional Space Medal to Dr. Shannon Lucid. The United States has always been sparing in its honors because the medals and official recognition we bestow are more than simple congratulations. They are public declarations of outstanding achievement and extraordinary service to the Nation. Dr. Lucid achieved that kind

of service for 188 days this year, the longest flight by an American in space, the longest mission for any woman of any nation in space, five shuttle missions altogether.

Her accomplishments should come as no surprise. She has always been a determined visionary. I think many of us have now heard the story of how, as an eighth grader, she wrote a school paper about wanting to be a rocket scientist, and she was told by the teacher that there was no such job and, even if there were, a girl couldn't get it. Fortunately, she didn't listen to everything her teacher said.

In 1978 she was chosen as one of NASA's first six women astronauts. As a biochemist, she's done important work on the effects of weightlessness on the human body, including her own. She surprised just about everyone when, after 6 months in space, she stood up to gravity and walked right off the space shuttle.

Most pioneers set their sights on just one frontier. Shannon Lucid has pushed to the fur-