

Aug. 24 / Administration of William J. Clinton, 1998

awareness. In particular, today's statistics show the importance of the legislation I fought for and signed 3 years ago to ensure zero tolerance for underage drinking and driving. But there is more we must do. We could save even more lives by passing a tough national standard of impaired driving at .08 blood alcohol content (BAC)—and I continue to challenge the Congress to enact this life-saving measure. If we

work together, we can spare thousands of families from the grief and anger of losing a loved one to a preventable drunk driving crash, and make our roads, highways, and communities safer for all Americans.

NOTE: The statement referred to the National Highway System Designation Act of 1995, Public Law 104-59, approved November 28, 1995.

Statement on the Death of Lewis F. Powell, Jr.

August 25, 1998

Hillary and I are deeply saddened by the death of Justice Lewis F. Powell, Jr., one of our most thoughtful and conscientious Justices. For over 15 years on the Supreme Court, he approached each case without an ideological agenda, carefully applying the Constitution, the law, and Supreme Court precedent regardless of his own personal views about the case. His opinions were a model of balance and judicious-

ness. As a result, he was the decisive voice on the Court in addressing some of the most important issues of our day.

Justice Powell was an admirable public servant. Our thoughts and prayers are with his loved ones.

NOTE: The related proclamation of August 25 is listed in Appendix D at the end of this volume.

Memorandum on the National Academy of Sciences Report on Food Safety

August 25, 1998

Memorandum for the President's Council on Food Safety

Subject: National Academy of Sciences Report

My Administration is committed to ensuring that the American people enjoy the safest food possible. We have made great progress by implementing science-based prevention control systems for seafood, meat, and poultry; developing a comprehensive initiative to ensure the safety of domestic and imported fruits and vegetables; and launching an interagency food safety initiative that focuses on key food safety issues from the farm to the table. We can and must continue to build upon these efforts.

Under our current food safety system, several different Federal agencies have responsibility for improving food safety. Within the framework of our interagency initiative, we have taken a number of steps to improve the coordination of our food safety efforts. Most recently, we established

a Joint Institute for Food Safety Research to develop a strategic plan for conducting food safety research activities and to coordinate all Federal food safety research, including with the private sector and academia.

Today, I signed an Executive Order establishing the President's Council on Food Safety. To strengthen and focus our efforts to coordinate food safety policy and resources and improve food safety for American consumers, the Council will develop a comprehensive strategic plan for Federal food safety activities, ensure the most effective use of Federal resources through the development and submission of coordinated food safety budgets, and oversee the Joint Institute for Food Safety Research.

The National Academy of Sciences (NAS) recently issued a thoughtful and highly informative report on food safety issues, entitled "Ensuring Safe Food from Production to Consumption."

This report recommends additional ways to enhance coordination and improve effectiveness in the food safety system, including through reform of current food safety legislation.

I hereby direct the Council to review and respond to this report as one of its first orders of business. After providing opportunity for public comment, including public meetings, the Council shall report back to me within 180 days with its views on the NAS's recommendations. In developing this report, the Council should

take into account the comprehensive strategic Federal food safety plan that it will be developing.

I thank the Council for its efforts to improve food safety, and I look forward to the continued leadership of the President's Council on Food Safety.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

NOTE: The Executive order is listed in Appendix D at the end of this volume.

Statement on the Bombings in South Africa and Uganda

August 26, 1998

Hillary and I join the American people in extending our deepest sympathies to the victims of bomb attacks in South Africa and Uganda on August 25, and to their families and friends. We reaffirm our unshakeable friendship and support for them and for all of the people of South Africa and Uganda.

The United States condemns, in the strongest possible terms, these senseless attacks on inno-

cent civilians that have taken the lives of at least 29 Ugandans and 2 South Africans.

Earlier this month, South Africa provided immediate and invaluable assistance to the United States, Kenya, and Tanzania in the wake of the bombings of the U.S. Embassies in those countries. We are grateful for the generous response and will do what we can to assist South Africa and Uganda in the wake of these senseless acts.

Remarks Announcing Safe Schools and Police Corps Initiatives in Worcester, Massachusetts

August 27, 1998

Thank you. Ladies and gentlemen, first let me thank you for your remarkable and warm welcome. I'm glad to be here in Worcester, the heartbeat of Massachusetts for 150 years now, and in this grand hall where so many great Americans have spoken, from Frederick Douglas to Susan B. Anthony to Henry David Thoreau. I'm honored to share this stage with Kathleen Bisson, and I thank her for her commitment to teaching our children and for keeping them safe, and with Officer Michael Jones, who moved us all with how he responded to his personal tragedy.

Mr. Mayor, I thought you gave a great talk. When he was up here kind of moving around, doing his shtick, I said—I was amazed. Kathleen said, "You know, he ought to be in Hollywood.

You should see the rap act he does for the school kids." [Laughter] So I thank you.

Chief Gardella, I cannot thank you enough for what you said, and I appreciate more than you will ever know the impact that we have had the opportunity to have through the community policing and the other law enforcement programs.

I thank Scott Harshbarger, who has been a friend of mine for a long time and who has, I can tell you from my personal experience not only as President but even before when I was Governor, always been on the forefront of law enforcement reforms that would give our children a safer future.

I thank Congressman McGovern who has worked in both the areas we celebrate today