

children live in and what people say about you and our generation 100 years from now. It's hard to think of a greater gift we could give at the turn of the century or a new millennium than a clean energy future.

Thank you all, and God bless you for your work.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:26 p.m. on the Whitten Patio at the Department of Agriculture. In his remarks, he referred to Amal Mansour, chair of the board of directors and chief executive officer, Manufacturing and Technology Conversion International, Inc.; R. James Woolsey, former Director, Central Intelligence Agency; and Professor Bruce E. Dale, chair, Department of Chemical Engineering, Michigan State University.

## Memorandum on Biobased Products and Bioenergy

August 12, 1999

*Memorandum for the Secretary of Agriculture, the Secretary of Energy, the Secretary of the Treasury, the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency*

*Subject:* Biobased Products and Bioenergy

Today I issued an Executive Order, "Developing and Promoting Biobased Products and Bioenergy," to further the development of a comprehensive national strategy that includes research, development, and private sector incentives to stimulate the creation and early adoption of technologies needed to make biobased products and bioenergy cost-competitive in national and international markets.

Consistent with the objectives and activities in that order and to ensure that the Nation moves efficiently to exploit the benefits of expanded use of biobased products and bioenergy, I hereby direct as follows:

- (1) The Secretaries of Agriculture and Energy, in consultation with other appropriate agencies, shall, within 120 days of this memorandum, prepare a report outlining and assessing options for modifying existing respective agency programs in fiscal year 2001 to promote biobased products and bioenergy with a goal of tripling U.S. use of biobased products and bioenergy by 2010. Programs include, among others, conservation and utility programs within the Department of Agriculture (including the Conservation Reserve Program and the Environmental Quality Incentives Program); technology assistance and other small business programs; and education and extension programs. The report also

shall include an assessment of: (a) the evidence to determine whether modifications to the tax code are a cost-effective policy option for review by the Department of the Treasury; and (b) the potential to expand use of biobased products and bioenergy by Federal agencies including co-firing with biomass at Federal facilities, use of biofuels in Federal vehicles, and Federal procurement of biobased products and bioenergy. Such expanded use shall be consistent with agency opportunities and the President's budget.

- (2) In preparing this report, the agencies shall:
  - (a) work closely with the Environmental Protection Agency to ensure that actions recommended reflect a careful review of the environmental benefits, concerns, and net environmental consequences created by expanded use of biobased products and bioenergy. The factors considered should include:
    - (i) impact on net emissions of greenhouse gases including carbon sequestered by biomass crops, and substituting low net-carbon, biobased products, and bioenergy for products manufactured from fossil fuels; and
    - (ii) emissions of criteria pollutants and air toxics and other environmental consequences of production of biobased products and bioenergy; and
    - (iii) changes in water quality, soil erosion, pesticide and fertilizer use, and wildlife habitat as a consequence of changes in land use associated with biomass production; and

(b) consider the findings and recommendations of the recently released National Academy of Sciences report "Biobased Industrial Products;" the recommendations contained in "Technology Vision 2020: The U.S. Chemical Industry" by the American Chemical Society, American Institute of Chemical Engineers, Chemical Manufacturers Association, Council for Chemical Research, and the Synthetic Organic Chemical Manufacturers Association; the recommendations by the U.S. agricultural, forestry, and chemical communities from the "Plant/Crop-based Renewable Resources 2020: A Vision to Enhance U.S. Economic Security Through Renewable Plant/Crop-Based Resource Use;" and, "Agenda 2020" by the U.S. Forest Products Industry; and (c) consider input from other sources, including public-private strategic plans developed by the Departments of Agriculture and Energy,

the Environmental Protection Agency, National Science Foundation, Department of the Interior, and other agencies bioenergy (power, fuels, and heat), commercial and industrial chemicals, and other products and materials.

- (3) The Secretaries of Agriculture and Energy shall, within 120 days of this memorandum, report on outreach efforts to raise the Nation's awareness of the useful applications, benefits, and costs of producing biobased products and bioenergy and adopting biobased technologies including workshops on new biomass crops and technologies for producing and marketing biobased products and bioenergy.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this memorandum. The Executive order of August 12 is listed in Appendix D at the end of this volume.

## Videotaped Remarks to the "Safe Schools, Safe Students: What Parents Can Do" Teleconference

August 12, 1999

Hello, and welcome to the many parents, students, educators, and community leaders meeting in schools all across our Nation tonight. I want to thank you for taking part in this vital discussion about safe schools and safe students.

Several months ago, after the tragedy in Littleton, I called on the American people to wage a national campaign to keep our schools and our children safe. I am pleased that you and so many other Americans in so many communities are doing just that, stepping up to your responsibility, joining hands in the search for common ground and concrete solutions.

The tragic incidents of gun violence in recent months underscore the importance of your efforts. The shooting just this week at the Jewish community center in Los Angeles, like the recent shootings in Illinois and Indiana, appears to have been motivated by racial and ethnic hatred. If so, it's just another reason for us to rededicate ourselves to our common community and our common humanity and another compel-

ling argument for the passage of hate crimes legislation and commonsense gun laws.

Acts of hate against individuals are acts of hate against our values and our entire Nation. So let us all speak clearly and with one voice: Our Nation will not stand for such acts. Acts of hate must strengthen our resolve and deepen our determination that Americans will come together and stand together and work together against violence, intolerance, and hatred.

In all these efforts, we must all first assume responsibility: at home and at school, in Hollywood and the heartland, and here in Washington. Parents play an especially crucial role, for no influence on a child is more important. I am very pleased that Secretary Riley and Attorney General Reno will focus this national conversation on the concerns and responsibilities of parents. You'll hear from experts who have some good and helpful ideas. But I know they, like the rest of us, are eager to hear from all