

State and the Department of Labor, to closely monitor the impact of these provisions to determine whether the next congress should revisit these changes made to the H-1B program.

I had hoped that the Congress would take this opportunity to address important issues of fairness affecting many immigrants already in this country. We need to meet the needs of the high-tech industry by raising the number of visas for temporary high-tech workers. But we also must ensure fairness for immigrants who have been in this country for years, working hard and paying taxes. The Latino and Immigrant Fairness Act (LIFA) will allow people who have lived here for 15 years or more—and who have established families and strong ties to their communities—to become permanent residents. It will also amend the Nicaraguan Adjustment and Central American Relief Act (NACARA) to extend the same protections currently offered to people from Cuba and Nicaragua to immi-

grants from Honduras, Guatemala, El Salvador, Haiti, and Liberia who fled to this country to escape serious hardship. Finally, it will allow families to stay together while their applications for permanent resident status are being processed. These fundamental fairness provisions have been embraced by humanitarian groups, business groups, and Members of the Congress from both sides of the aisle. I will continue to insist strongly on passage of the Latino and Immigrant Fairness Act this year, before the Congress adjourns.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

The White House,
October 17, 2000.

NOTE: S. 2045, approved October 17, was assigned Public Law No. 106-313, and H.R. 5362, approved October 17, was assigned Public Law No. 106-311.

Message to the Congress Transmitting the Report of the Railroad Retirement Board

October 17, 2000

To the Congress of the United States:

I transmit herewith the Annual Report of the Railroad Retirement Board for Fiscal Year 1999, pursuant to the provisions of section 7(b)(6) of

the Railroad Retirement Act and section 12(l) of the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

The White House,
October 17, 2000.

Remarks at the President's Cup Dinner

October 17, 2000

Thank you very much. I'm sorry to be the only person here who is not properly dressed. [Laughter] But as Tim said, I just got off the airplane, and I wanted to come by and welcome you to Washington and say how thrilled I am to be the honorary chair of the President's Cup this year. I'm pleased we're going back to RTJ and that my friend and golfing partner Vernon Jordan is the president of the club, so he'll let me on to walk around a little and watch you.

I want to thank Ken Venturi and Peter Thomson for serving as the captains of the teams. And I want to thank Tim Finchem who, like Vernon, has been a friend of mine for well over 20 years, for the outstanding leadership he provides the PGA.

I'm delighted to have you here, and I want to say a special word of appreciation for the work the President's Cup does, first, to raise money for worthy charities. When you finish this year, you will have raised over \$6 million