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Statement on Withdrawal of the Nomination of Zoe Baird To Be Attorney General

January 22, 1993

Tonight, I received a letter from my Attorney-General-designate, Ms. Zoe Baird, asking that I withdraw her nomination to lead the United States Department of Justice from further consideration by the Senate.

Ms. Baird is a gifted attorney and a woman of decency and integrity. She responded to the call to public service with energy and a firm dedication to the mission of the Justice Department. Her candid disclosure of the child care matter to officials of my transition and to the Senate Judiciary Committee led to the circumstances we face today.

Clearly, our review process prior to her selection failed to evaluate this issue completely. For that, I take full responsibility. I hold Zoe Baird in the highest regard, and I believe she has much to give to her profession and to our country. I hope to continue to seek her advice and counsel. With sadness, I have accepted her request that the nomination be withdrawn and have so informed the Senate majority leader, George Mitchell.

Letter Accepting Zoe Baird's Withdrawal as a Nominee To Be Attorney General

January 22, 1993

Dear Zoe:

I have received your letter asking that I withdraw your nomination as Attorney General of the United States from further consideration by the Senate. With sadness, I accept your request that the nomination be withdrawn.

You are an exceptionally gifted attorney, and a person of great decency and integrity. You have responded to the call of public service with energy and a firm dedication to the mission of the Justice Department. I realize that it was your candid disclosure of the child care matter that led to the circumstances we face today. I believe that the concerns raised about your child care situation were unique to the position of Attorney General.

You are highly qualified to be Attorney General. Your stated goals for a nonpartisan, independent and strongly managed Department of Justice were fully in accord with my own. I believe you would have been a fine Attorney General.

Hillary and I value your and Paul's friendship. We look forward to seeing you often. I hope that you will be available for other assignments for your country in my Administration.

Sincerely,

Bill Clinton

NOTE: The White House also made available Ms. Baird's letter requesting that her nomination to be Attorney General be withdrawn.

Remarks at the Swearing-In Ceremony for Cabinet Members

January 22, 1993

The President. Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. Today I am proud to present to you and to the American people a Cabinet of talented, diverse, and seasoned leaders.

I'm deeply gratified to the United States Senate for their quick confirmation of 18 nominees only 2 days after the Inauguration. The Senate acted with historic dispatch because it recognizes that our Nation needs action now on our problems. I very much appreciate that, and like them I am ready to get to work.

Ladies and gentlemen, I would like to now present the Chief Justice to administer the oath of office. Mr. Chief Justice.

Chief Justice Rehnquist. Would you each raise your right hands and repeat after me. And the first phrase is "I, blank," and obviously there you insert your name—[*laughter*]—"do solemnly swear."

[*At this point, the Chief Justice administered the oath of office.*]

The President. Let me, first of all, say I'm glad no one said "I, blank." [*Laughter*] There will be time enough for those blanks in the days ahead. [*Laughter*]