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sular offices, and other facilities abroad, including all military facilities and naval vessels and stations.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-fourth day of January, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-three, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred seventeenth.

William J. Clinton

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 1:45 a.m., January 25, 1993]

NOTE: This proclamation was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on January 25, and it was published in the Federal Register on January 27.

Remarks on the Establishment of the National Economic Council and an Exchange With Reporters

January 25, 1993

The President. This is the Executive order which establishes the National Economic Council and which brings into the economic policymaking of the Federal Government not just the traditional Secretaries of Treasury, OMB, the Council of Economic Advisers, but also the Departments of Commerce, Labor, Agriculture, HUD, Transportation, Energy, EPA, as well as the Trade Office, State, so that we can all work together. I want to thank all of the people around this table for all the work they've done on this and especially Mr. Rubin for the work that he's done to try to reconcile all these things. I believe that this will enable us to make economic policy in a much more specific, clear, and effective way than the Federal Government has in quite a long while.

[*At this point, the President signed the Executive order.*]

Gays in the Military

Q. If the Joint Chiefs oppose this lifting of the ban on gays in the military, are you still going to go ahead with that?

The President. I'm going to meet with them and discuss it this afternoon. But I intend to keep my commitment. I want their input on how we should do it, however. I think they're entitled to really be listened to on a lot of the practical issues.

Q. Is this part of what you said in your Inaugural Address, that it will require sacrifice?

The President. I think everybody wants to make a contribution to solving these problems, and we're going to give everyone the opportunity to do that.

Q. How quickly will you lift this ban, Mr. President?

The President. I don't have anything else to say about it right now. We're going to have a meeting——

Q. Are you going to have a meeting on it?

The President. I want to talk to the Joint Chiefs about that, and then I'll have a statement to make later.

Q. Today?

The President. I don't know. We've got a lot of other things to do today. Maybe; I don't know.

Taxes

Q. Mr. President, can you say anything about the consumption tax that Senator Bentsen addressed yesterday?

The President. No. I thought he did a very good job on television. I wasn't sure that I was reading about the same interview in the press this morning. He said that no decision had been made, and no decision has been made. We have a lot of options under consideration, but no decision has been made.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:30 a.m. in the Roosevelt Room at the White House. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Executive Order 12835—Establishment of the National Economic Council

January 25, 1993

By the authority vested in me as President of the United States by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including sections 105, 107, and 301 of title 3, United States Code, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. *Establishment.* There is established the National Economic Council (''the Council'').

Sec. 2. *Membership.* The Council shall comprise the:

(a) President, who shall serve as Chairman of the Council;

(b) Vice President;

(c) Secretary of State;

(d) Secretary of the Treasury;

(e) Secretary of Agriculture;

(f) Secretary of Commerce;

(g) Secretary of Labor;

(h) Secretary of Housing and Urban Development;

(i) Secretary of Transportation;

(j) Secretary of Energy;

(k) Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency;

(l) Chair of the Council of Economic Advisers;

(m) Director of the Office of Management and Budget;

(n) United States Trade Representative;

(o) Assistant to the President for Economic Policy;

(p) Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy;

(q) National Security Adviser;

(r) Assistant to the President for Science and Technology Policy; and

(s) Such other officials of executive departments and agencies as the President may, from time to time, designate.

Sec. 3. *Meetings of the Council.* The President, or upon his direction, the Assistant to the President for Economic Policy (''the Assistant''), may convene meetings of the Council. The President shall preside over the meetings of the Council, provided that in his absence the Vice President, and in his absence the Assistant, will preside.

Sec. 4. *Functions.* (a) The principal functions of the Council are: (1) to coordinate the economic policy-making process with respect to domestic and international economic issues; (2) to coordinate economic policy advice to the President; (3) to ensure that economic policy decisions and programs are consistent with the President's stated goals, and to ensure that those goals are being effectively pursued; and (4) to monitor implementation of the President's economic policy agenda. The Assistant may take such actions, including drafting a Charter, as may be necessary or appropriate to implement such functions.

(b) All executive departments and agencies, whether or not represented on the Council, shall coordinate economic policy through the Council.

(c) In performing the foregoing functions, the Assistant will, when appropriate, work in conjunction with the Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy and the Assistant to the President for National Security.

(d) The Secretary of the Treasury will continue to be the senior economic official in the executive branch and the President's chief economic spokesperson. The Director of the Office of Management and Budget, as the President's principal budget spokesperson, will continue to be the senior budget official in the executive branch. The Council of Economic Advisers will continue its traditional analytic, forecasting and advisory functions.

Sec. 5. *Administration.* (a) The Council may function through established or ad hoc committees, task forces or interagency groups.

(b) The Council shall have a staff to be headed by the Assistant to the President for Economic Policy. The Council shall have such staff and other assistance as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this order.

(c) All executive departments and agencies shall cooperate with the Council and provide such assistance, information, and advice to