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the President and Deputy Director of the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs.

For the last several months, Hart has been a senior transition staffer, serving as Special Assistant to then-transition director Warren Christopher and to Thomas "Mack" McLarty following his appointment as Chief of Staff. Hart had been deputy director of the Clinton/Gore Transition Planning Foundation, the pre-transition organization that was formed during the general election campaign. During the 1992 primary campaign, Hart played a vital role as director of delegate operations. Previously, he had been an attorney in Washington, DC, and a judicial clerk for the Honorable James T. Turner of the U.S. Claims Court.

Appointment of Arthur Jones and Lorraine Voles as Deputy White House Press Secretaries

January 25, 1993

The President today appointed two veteran press secretaries, Arthur Jones and Lorraine Voles, to serve as Deputy White House Press Secretaries.

Voles served as deputy traveling press secretary for the Clinton/Gore campaign and has been press secretary to Senator Tom Harkin of Iowa since 1989. Prior to that she was a project director with the Natural Resources Defense Council and was national deputy press secretary for the Dukakis/Bentsen campaign. She will begin work at the White House on Monday, February 1.

Jones has been press secretary to Boston Mayor Ray Flynn since 1987. Prior to that he served as deputy press secretary to former Massachusetts Governor Michael Dukakis and was a reporter for the Boston Globe. He begins work on Monday, February 8.

Exchange With Reporters Prior to a Meeting with Congressional Leaders

January 26, 1993

Q. Mr. President, are you going to have a policy statement on gays in the military by the end of the week?

The President. I'm going to talk to the leadership of Congress about our legislative agenda.

Q. How do you feel your meeting with the Joint Chiefs went yesterday, Mr. President?

The President. It was a very good meeting. I was very impressed by them. The country's well served.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:38 a.m. in the Cabinet Room at the White House.

Nomination of Thomas R. Pickering To Be United States Ambassador to Russia

January 26, 1993

President Clinton announced today that he intends to nominate Thomas R. Pickering as Ambassador of the United States of America to the Russian Federation. Ambassador Pickering is a career Foreign Service officer who holds the personal rank of Career Ambassador, the highest in the U.S. Foreign Service. He has served his country with distinction in a series of senior positions, most recently as Ambassador to India.

In making this announcement, President Clinton said, "It is essential that we continue to expand and develop our relationship with Russia. I want to do everything I can to support democratic and economic reform there and want an experienced and dedicated Ambassador to represent our Nation in Moscow. Ambassador Pickering has demonstrated throughout his career that he has the ability and wisdom to carry out this important assignment. I have full confidence in him."