

[At this point, the President signed the bill.]

approved March 4, was assigned Public Law No. 103-6.

### **Bosnia**

**Q.** Mr. President, do you have any response to Mr. Karadzic, who had an implied threat of violence against the United States because of its policy of airdrops?

**The President.** Well, if that's what he meant to do, he made a terrible mistake, and it was something that I viewed with grave concern and real disapproval.

### **World Trade Center Bombing**

**Q.** Do you think that the incident in New York and the arrest today should make Americans afraid about foreign policy decisions that might affect us domestically through terrorism?

**The President.** No, I don't think the American people can afford to be afraid. I think we all have to be concerned about any risks to our people's safety. But I would say again what I said to you earlier: My feeling now is one of real gratitude to the law enforcement officials at every level who worked together and moved quickly to try to resolve this matter and who did make an arrest.

I think we should wait until the formal statement is issued, until we know more facts before we can draw any conclusions about anything other than the fact that an arrest was undertaken. When I know more facts I'll be glad to answer more questions and say more. But I think that today we ought to be very impressed that the law enforcement authorities in this country moved so quickly to make an arrest. And I'm grateful to them.

**Q.** Why would it be a grave mistake for him to make implications?

**Q.** Based on what you know, sir, do you think they'll be able to crack the bombing case?

### **The Deficit**

**Q.** What does this say about your commitment to cutting the deficit?

**The President.** It says I've done more about it than anybody in recent history. And I intend to keep on.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 4:33 p.m. in the Roosevelt Room at the White House. H.R. 920,

## **Statement on Signing the Emergency Unemployment Compensation Amendments of 1993**

*March 4, 1993*

Today I am pleased to sign into law H.R. 920, the "Emergency Unemployment Compensation Amendments of 1993." This legislation will provide critical assistance to the unemployed and their families by extending the Emergency Unemployment Compensation (EUC) program—which is scheduled to expire March 6—through October 2, 1993. In addition, the legislation includes an innovative worker profiling program to encourage States to use the Unemployment Insurance system to link permanently displaced workers to reemployment services early in their period of unemployment and facilitate their transition to new jobs.

With the EUC program due to expire this Saturday, I commend the Congress for its swift action to ensure that there will be continued help for millions of jobless Americans who want to work to support their families but cannot find jobs. I believe that, as a Nation, we have a moral obligation, as well as an economic interest, to help these families stay afloat while they attempt to find jobs.

While there have been recent signs of improvement in the economy, this improvement has regrettably not extended to the area of employment. The unemployment rate has been over 7 percent for 14 consecutive months and the current rate is higher than the rate that existed when the EUC program was originally enacted. Moreover, the current labor market is, in many respects, weaker than it was at what was considered the worst point of the recession. For example, the rates at which the unemployed are now exhausting their regular State benefits and the average length of time the unemployed are now receiving benefits are significantly higher than they were at the bottom of the recession.

H.R. 920 combines compassion with a healthy dose of common sense. It not only

provides extended income support to help the unemployed with grocery bills, mortgages, car and tuition payments, and other expenses, but also offers a means to help target reemployment services to the structurally unemployed so they can get back to work.

Enactment of this bill is an important first step. While there are funds available to pay EUC benefits for a few more weeks, the funds for the balance of the extension are included as part of my economic stimulus package. The EUC extension will help sustain the unemployed until we are successful in creating more jobs. It is therefore also imperative that we now work together to enact quickly the stimulus package, as well as the long-term public investment and deficit reduction proposals I have presented. These actions will ensure strong, sustained economic growth and significantly increase the job opportunities available to the American people.

**William J. Clinton**

The White House,  
March 4, 1993.

NOTE: H.R. 920, approved March 4, was assigned Public Law No. 103-6.

**Letter to Governor Mike Lowry on  
Disaster Assistance for Washington**

*March 4, 1993*

*Dear Governor Lowry:*

As requested, I have declared a major disaster under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (the Stafford Act) for the State of Washington due to damage resulting from severe storms and high winds on January 20-21, 1993. I have authorized Federal relief and recovery assistance in the affected area.

Public Assistance will be provided. Consistent with the requirement that Federal assistance be supplemental, any Federal funds provided under the Stafford Act for Public Assistance will be limited to 75 percent of the total eligible costs in the designated areas.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency ("FEMA") will coordinate Federal

assistance efforts and designate specific areas eligible for such assistance. The Federal Coordinating Officer will be Mr. John Kainrad of FEMA. He will consult with you and assist in the execution of the FEMA-State Disaster Assistance Agreement governing the expenditure of Federal Funds.

Sincerely,

**Bill Clinton**

NOTE: This letter was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary but was not issued as a White House press release.

**Letter to the Acting Director of the  
Federal Emergency Management  
Agency on Disaster Assistance for  
Washington**

*March 4, 1993*

*Dear Mr. Tidball:*

I have determined that the damage in certain areas of the State of Washington, resulting from severe storms and high winds on January 20-21, 1993, is of sufficient severity and magnitude to warrant a major disaster declaration under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act ("the Stafford Act"). I, therefore, declare that such a major disaster exists in the State of Washington.

In order to provide Federal assistance, you are hereby authorized to allocate from funds available for these purposes, such amounts as you find necessary for Federal disaster assistance and administrative expenses.

You are authorized to provide Public Assistance in the designated areas. Consistent with the requirement that Federal assistance be supplemental, any Federal funds provided under the Stafford Act for Public Assistance will be limited to 75 percent of the total eligible costs.

Sincerely,

**Bill Clinton**

NOTE: This letter was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary but was not issued as a White House press release.