

ment tax credits and urban enterprise zones and special capital gains for new enterprises. At the same time, we'll invest more in research and development for new technologies and to convert defense technology. And that will help us stay competitive globally. With our investment in lifelong learning, we'll give Americans the tools they need to stay sharp in the changing job market.

Our plan takes care of our children, too. We want to immunize every child against infectious diseases, to get them off on the right foot with Head Start, to help mothers and infants to get the nutrition they need. It's the smart thing to do and the right investment to make. Every dollar we invest today will give us back many more dollars tomorrow. Just yesterday I saw what investments in children can bring. I was in Atlanta where parents, teachers, and business leaders have joined forces to create a Downtown Child Development Center. In every direction I looked, I saw small faces with big smiles. It's a nurturing environment that produces happy kids, productive parents, and satisfied employers. In many ways, it's a microcosm of what we want for America.

Our economic recovery package may be the boldest economic plan that Congress has ever seen. In addition to the investments, the plan passed by the House will reduce the Federal deficit by \$510 billion in the next 5 years. If we can make these changes, our children will live better, more prosperous lives.

Make no mistake about it, this is a bold plan, because we need bold change. You know it; that's what you asked for. The American people are, by their very nature, people of action. It's been very frustrating to have more than a decade of policies that run up the deficit and ran down morale and investment. And it's been more frustrating still to see Government in gridlock where nothing profoundly important ever happens.

Our plan to cut spending and increase investment in the future of our country is now being considered in the United States Senate. In Washington, your voices are being heard, so I urge you to raise them. We need to enlist the Senators now in our cause to break gridlock and get the economy moving. Please encourage your Senators to support

the economic plan, to create jobs and boost incomes and reduce our national debt.

The sooner our plan becomes a reality, the sooner we'll be shifting the gears of our economy out of neutral and into drive. You're in the driver's seat now. I urge you, make sure your foot's off the brake, step on the accelerator, and help move this country forward.

Thanks for listening.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:10 a.m. from the Oval Office at the White House.

Proclamation 6538—National Agriculture Day, 1993

March 20, 1993

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

On this first day of spring, it is appropriate that we reflect on America's agricultural heritage. Our history and our future are intertwined with the farmland and the farmers who help nourish and clothe us. Farming, an integral and pervasive aspect of our economy, is critically important in the daily lives of all Americans.

In our markets, farmers offer us the world's safest and most diverse food supply. But agriculture also touches every other facet of our lives: from shirts to schoolbooks, from prescription drugs to the lumber in our homes. The quality of our lives is due in large measure to the efficient productivity of agricultural workers.

Agriculture, America's number one industry, provides 21 million jobs and is the single largest contributor to our net trade balance. The average American farmer produces enough every year to feed and clothe 129 other people.

As efficient and productive as they are in meeting our citizens' basic needs, our farmers have contributed just as much to our culture. They helped found and build our Nation, and our calendar and holidays still reflect the seasons around which they weave their lives. When American food alleviates the hunger of starving children at home or

abroad, we are all enriched. Farmers and farmworkers have always exemplified the virtues of patient hard work, of respect for the land, with an understanding of our responsibility as stewards of the Earth, of careful management of limited resources, and of resiliency in the face of natural disasters.

On this day, I ask all Americans to consider our reliance on agriculture—the farmers, scientists, processors, shippers, grocers, and others who spend their days providing us with the basics of a good life.

The Congress, by Senate Joint Resolution 36, has designated March 20, 1993, as “National Agriculture Day” and has authorized and requested the President to issue a proclamation in observance of this day.

Now, Therefore, I, William J. Clinton, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim March 20, 1993, as National Agriculture Day. I urge the people of the United States to observe this day with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

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

William J. Clinton

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 2:25 p.m., March 22, 1993]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on March 24.

Announcement of Nomination for Two Sub-Cabinet Posts

March 22, 1993

President Clinton announced today his intention to nominate George Weise, the staff director of the House Ways and Means Committee’s Subcommittee on Trade, to be Commissioner of the U.S. Customs Service, Department of the Treasury; and Stephen Kaplan, the former city attorney of Denver, to be General Counsel for the Department of Transportation.

“George Weise,” said the President, “is one of this country’s leading experts on customs matters, with experience that few can

match. I am confident that he will work to make the Customs Service a model of effectiveness and efficiency.”

“As Denver’s city attorney,” the President added, “Stephen Kaplan served Federico Peña with unparalleled dedication and professionalism. He will, I am sure, do no less here in the Federal Government.”

NOTE: Biographies of the nominees were made available by the Office of the Press Secretary.

The President’s News Conference

March 23, 1993

Russian Reforms and U.S. Economy

The President. Good afternoon. Before taking your questions today I would like to speak very briefly about some foreign and domestic issues.

First, I want to reiterate that the United States supports the historic movement toward democratic political reform in Russia. President Yeltsin is the leader of that process. He is a democratically elected national leader, indeed, the first democratically elected President in a thousand years of Russian history. He has United States support, as do his reformed government and all reformers throughout Russia. At this moment, Russia is in a constitutional and political crisis. President Yeltsin proposes to break the logjam by letting the people of Russia decide on April 25th. That is an appropriate step in a democracy. Our interest is to see that this process unfolds peacefully.

We’re encouraged that President Yeltsin is committed to defend civil liberties, to continue economic reform, to continue foreign policy cooperation toward a peaceful world. Russia is, and must remain, a democracy. Democratic reform in Russia is the basis for a better future for the Russian people, for continued United States-Russian partnership, and for the hopes of all humanity for a more peaceful and secure world.

The United States has great responsibilities abroad and at home. To meet these responsibilities, we must not only continue to